

# MISSOURI JOURNAL OF NUMISMATICS

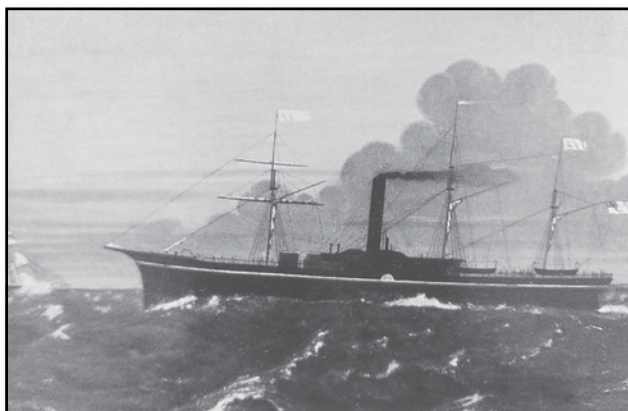
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**VOLUME 49**

**JULY, 2024**

**OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MISSOURI NUMISMATIC SOCIETY**

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# Missouri Numismatic Society

## and Scotsman Auctions

present:

### MNS 64th Annual Coin Show and Scotsman Auction

July 17th—20th, 2024

St. Charles Convention Center

Convention Center Plaza

St. Charles, Missouri 63303



#### Show Hours:

**DEALERS ONLY:** Wednesday, July 17th NLT 2 pm - 3 pm

**PUBLIC:** Thursday, July 18th 10 am - 6 pm

**DEALERS & EARLY BIRDS:** Wednesday, July 17th 3 pm - 6 pm

Friday, July 19th 10 am - 6 pm

(\$50 fee for Early Birds  
good for all days)

Thursday, July 18th 8:30 am - 6 pm

Saturday, July 20th 10 am - 4 pm

Friday, July 19th 8:30 am - 6 pm

#### SCOTSMAN AUCTION:

Saturday, July 20th 8:30 am - 4 pm

Friday, July 19th 6 pm

#### 140 Booths

Free Admission and Free Parking

U. S. & Foreign, Ancient & Modern Coins and Currency,  
Gold & Silver Bullion,

Numismatic Exhibits including S. S. Central America and

Young Numismatist Activities and Prizes,

*The Missouri Numismatic Society was founded in 1938.*



**MNS Bourse Chairmen:** Rob Kravitz (314 809-8275) and Dan Marion (314 550-6186)

P. O. Box 410652, St. Louis, Missouri 63141-0652



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## **PUBLICATIONS**

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# President's Message

By  
*Kathy Skelton*

Welcome to the 64th Annual Coin Show of the Missouri Numismatic Society (MNS). We hope you are having a great experience and finding some treasures for your collection!



Our club will be receiving a plaque from the ANA (American Numismatic Association) in August for 85 years of dedicated, continuous service to them. It will be an honor to accept the plaque at the World's Fair of Money in Chicago.

We welcome IASAC (International Association of Silver Art Collectors) for their annual convention. Silver art bars, silver rounds, silver silver silver!

Check out our exhibits – we have a special exhibit on the SS Central America. We also have an expert in error coins, along with exhibits on Ancient Coins, Primitive Money, Queen Maeve, the Dahlonega-Charlotte Mint, a tribute to Eric Newman, Theodore Roosevelt, and Ked ala o Hawaii (Money of Hawaii).

New this year is our Penny Press machine! We have several images on the die, and you can take home a souvenir. We are commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Eads Bridge, and the 200th anniversary of the Santa Fe Trail. Kids of all ages love to turn the crank.

On a sad note, we lost past president Jerry Morgan, (2001 – 2005), also well-known dealers Sam Clenny (D&S Coins), Mike Edel (MJ Edel Coins), and Walter Magnus (Walter Magnus Coins).

Our show is the fundraiser that we rely on to run our educational activities, such as our monthly meetings (see the last page of this journal), send adults and YN's to Colorado for the annual ANA classes, and other educational endeavors. It is run by volunteers – not just the show committee, but also members of our club. They help in many 'behind the scenes' ways. No one has a paid position. So, a big THANK YOU to all who put in a lot of time and effort into keeping dealers, volunteers, and the public happy.

Special thanks to Dan Marion, Rob Kravitz and Barb Steers who communicate and organize the dealers and booths. Also - Dan Marion and Dave Hamill are vigilant about keeping the storage locker in order and making sure we have the equipment necessary to run the show.

Thank you to our board – they come together for running the club. Each board member has a special talent, and do an excellent job at their position – Joel Anderson, Dale Bunyard, Nick Correnti, Carl Garrison, Dave Hamill, Jenkins, Rob Kravitz, Dan Marion, Barb Steers, Doug Tomey, and Chip Vaughn.

Don't forget to check out the lots at Scotsman Auction. Friday night will be exciting and you may be the top bidder!

I hope you will join our club and share your interests with other members. If you join at our show (only \$10.00!), your membership will not expire until the end of 2025. You will be given a gift, a free meal at our October meeting, a free meal at our Award Party in December, refreshments at our meetings, a chance to win great attendance prizes, and most of all, fellowship with like-minded collectors. We also have a Face Book page and an opportunity to chat with fellow collectors.

Thank you for attending our show and have a great time!

# Ship of Gold and an American Tragedy

## SS Central America

By  
*Greg Darnstaedt*

Outside of numismatic circles the SS Central America (SSCA) story is not widely known or even heard of. When the Civil War broke out just a few years later, it seems to have been forgotten. Yet it was a catalyst for two events: The Panic of 1857 (through the loss of its gold on board) and the building of the Transcontinental Railroad in 1869.

September 12, 2024 will be the 167th anniversary of the sinking of the SSCA during a hurricane on Saturday September 12, 1857 around 8 p.m. about 160 miles off the South Carolina coast. The SSCA is known as the greatest American treasure ever lost and found. Yet it has the unfortunate distinction of having the greatest loss of life in American peacetime and maritime history at sea. The accepted number of 425 men, boys and one woman who perished should never be overlooked even amongst the general focus of the unimaginable amount of gold ingots, coins, and artifacts that were onboard and subsequently found, recovered and in the marketplace since 2000.

The seven books and one “The History Chanel” video that have been published since 1988 tell the story, along with the photos and drawings, far better than I can condense in the pages that follow. Even getting just one book is highly recommended and all are still available. Our numismatic interests generally make some connection with history and engaging in the story and acquiring items from a shipwreck can take it to another level, a life changing direction for me. Anyone can still “participate” in the SSCA drama and items out there. The SSCA has it all. Nothing else comes close. The SSCA really is the single most dramatic important event/recovery in American numismatic history.



We start with the discovery of gold by James Marshall at Sutter's Mill in January 1848. His discovery of one nugget (now in the Smithsonian) would set off a mass migration from all over the U.S. to California for years to come. Travelers wishing to go from the East Coast to the West Coast or back again during the gold rush of the 1850's had three choices: crossing the country by one of several overland trails, sailing around Cape Horn of South America, or taking a sea and land voyage by way of the “Panama Route”. The overland route would take three to four months. The Cape Horn route might be five to nine months. The “Panama Route” by steamship and railroad, completed in 1855, usually took 22 to 24 days.



By the mid 1850's California was sending millions of dollars in gold to the East via the Panama Route. Paddle wheel steamers, which also had sails, was the preferred option. They

would carry hundreds of passengers plus crew, mail, cargo, and of course literally tons of gold per trip. Usually twice a month for most of the year. “Steamer Day” as it became known in San Francisco, happened again on Thursday August 20, 1857. About 9 a.m. around 480 passengers boarded the SS Sonora, a steamer that ran the Pacific portion of the route. This ship was laden with over 100 bags of mail, other cargo, and \$1.6 million in gold bars and coins. Amazingly, that kind of amount was the average twice a month. This time consisting of at least 577 gold ingots and also at least 6,600 freshly minted 1857-S double eagles and much more. It is believed the passengers carried along another million dollars or so in gold.

In New York the SSCA departed on Aug. 20 for its 44th voyage. Each ship arrived on their respective sides of Panama at about the same time. The SSCA was formally known as the SS George Law for its first 42 voyages. The first in 1853. The name was changed on June 20, 1857 to the SSCA after a refurbishing. It had actually “run aground” three times earlier. The ship was about 278 feet long, had three decks and a lower hold for cargo and the fabled “gold room”. The three-masted steamer was about 40 feet wide with a pair of 30 feet diameter wheels and weighed about 2,141 tons.



Its captain was 43 year old US Navy Captain William Lewis Herndon. He was already well know due to his being assigned in 1851 to lead the first expedition to explore the Amazon River. Three years later a popular book was published of the adventure.

We are going to follow the most well-known couple then and now who were on the voyage. Ansel Easton and Adeline Mills Easton were married the morning of August 20, 1857 and were going to New York first and then to Europe. They boarded with their trunk (or possibly 2) of clothes and wedding gifts and as the bell of the SS Sonora rang they were off on their honeymoon. Addie Easton would later recall that “the voyage to the isthmus was one long delight”.

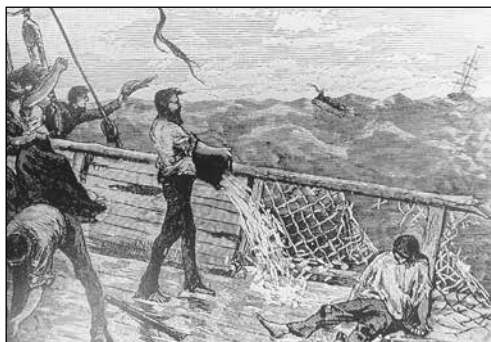


On Thursday September 3 the Sonora reached Panama City on the Pacific side and the day was spent loading and unloading passengers, cargo, and heavily guarded gold aboard the train for the 48 mile 4 hour trip to Aspinwall on the Atlantic side. All this was amazing completed the same day of September 3 by about 4 p.m. The SSCA was loaded and the “Ship of Gold” departed the dock and was steaming to New York at about 12 miles an hour.

The ship pulled into Havana, Cuba on Monday September 7 to take on coal and other supplies. Some people went ashore to get oranges and others went to stock up on the best Cuban cigars. The steamer pulls out of port around 9 a.m. on the 8th with the generally accepted number of 578 people (477 passengers and 101 crew). Also at this point the total shipment of specie was said to have been \$1,344,187. Some of the original \$1.6 million went by another route at Aspinwall on the Atlantic side and another \$125,000 was added back on at Havana.

Ansel, when going on board, had remarked how he thought the change of the ship's name was a bad omen; while at dinner one evening Adeline asked the Captain about shipwrecks. To the first comment Herndon replied he was not superstitious; to the second he stated that, "if she goes down I go under her keel."

The next day the weather began to change and passenger Virginia Birch remembered, "A squall came up and the wind blew like a hurricane and we had to go downstairs". By Thursday the 10th Thomas Badger said, "It blew a perfect hurricane and the sea ran mountains high." Seasickness was rampant as the pounding seas began to exact a toll on the ship's hull. At 9 a.m. Friday the 11th the Chief Engineer George Ashby reported that the ship was taking on water.



The ship began to list and it was impossible for the coal tenders to bring coal by wheelbarrow to the boilers. The paddle wheels would not turn and made it impossible to keep the bow facing into the waves. Also, the ship's pumps couldn't work. At about 1 p.m. Captain Herndon ordered all the men to assist in bailing the foundering ship with buckets and barrels. For the next 30 hours this was done relentlessly. At about 11 at night Adeline remembered the gifts of crackers and wine she and Ansel had brought aboard and distributed them to the men. Occasionally Ansel would take a break and sit with Addie. She said, "We spoke lovingly of our dear ones and decided that when the last moment came we should go down together hand in hand."

"In the course of the day on Saturday the 12th it was known by all that the ship was in a sinking condition," recalled Barney Lee. Then about noon a glimmer of hope appeared on the horizon. A sailing brig named the Marine out of Boston commanded by Captain Hiram Burt, was brought close to the stern and Captain Burt "promised to do all he could."



Captain Herndon was determined to save the women and children first and ordered the life boats launched. There were six but only three were useful. Since the two ships couldn't connect the only way was to have a dedicated crew for each boat row people through violent waves to the partially controlled Marine. They were lowered by rope or dropped into the pitching boats. Many fell into the water, yet all that did were pulled into the boats. These courageous heroes would then row to the Marine at times estimated 3 miles and back. When they reached the brig the



drenched passengers were grabbed or pulled up the side by rope. The only rescued person who died was Lucy Dawson, the SSCA's "ladies stewardess" was pinned between a life boat and the brigs hold, and died the next day. She was a freed black woman and was the oldest person of the crew.

Meanwhile back on the steamer there was, "indescribable confusion and alarm," recalled survivor William Chase. There were primitive life preservers onboard, some made of tin and/or rubber. Many ripped off planks or doors of wood and whatever else that might float. Chase said

later: "A great many of the passengers were miners, having considerable sums of gold about them, the product of years of toil; but the love of gold was forgotten in the anxiety and terror of the moment and many a man unbuckled his gold stuffed belt and flung his hard earned treasure upon the decks, some hoping to lighten their weight and thus more easily keep themselves afloat, while others threw it away in despair thinking there was no use for it in the watery grave they were going to." Mr. Chase says he might have picked up tens of thousands of dollars that lay strewn about the decks; but he did not think there was sufficient prospect of his surviving to use it to pay him for his trouble.

Another survivor, Captain Fletcher, was returning home with \$20,000 in gold dust, all of which was lost. He remembered years later: "Two young fellows named John and Anson Horne (from Missouri) had 90 lbs. of gold dust in a carpet sack which they were taking home, and the last I saw of them was on the deck of the ship as she was going down, each hanging on to a handle of the carpet sack. Both went down with their money."

Mary Swan, 18, was preparing to get on one of the lifeboats with her 21 month old daughter Lizzie when Captain Herndon gave Mary his gold pocket watch and chain. He asked her, "If you should survive, and I pray to God that you do, please try to get these to my wife and daughter in Albany New York." She did!

All 101 that the Marine took on were aboard by 6 p.m. At 6:30 a small schooner named the El Dorado passed by at about 100 feet but didn't take any passengers and latter caused much controversy. Adeline was onboard the Marine but Ansel was still on the sinking ship.

Efforts to stave off the inevitable by continuing to bail the constantly rising water in the ship came to an end as realization grew that the SS Central America was doomed, so the bailing of the ship stopped. Captain Badger recalled, "When all hope of keeping her afloat until daylight was relinquished. This was about seven o'clock on Saturday evening." Now it was the proverbial "every man for himself" and those on board were scrambling to find whatever they could to keep afloat.

During the last minutes before 8 p.m. Captain Herndon was standing on the wheel house deck in full uniform with other officers. Ansel Easton was beside him and the Captain borrowed Ansel's lit Cuban cigar to light the final two distress rockets. At that moment Adeline watched from the Marine and later said, "A rocket shot out obliquely, the lights disappeared beneath the waves, and all the world grew dark for me."

Survivors recalled the vessel lurched three times when sudden high waves swept over the deck. Some jumped off at the first two lurches but most remained on the forward deck until the ship went down stern first a few minutes later. As it slipped



At 8 p.m. on Saturday, September 12, 1857, the U.S.S. Central America finally disappeared beneath the waves.

down, the enormous suction generated by the sinking vessel pulled the men on board far below the surface. Those who managed to fight their way to the surface witnessed a terrifying scene. Barney Lee recalled, "Men, some holding planks, and others without anything, were tossed about the sea for a great space, and appeared to me like so many corks. The cries of despair which were uttered by all reached me.

I could not describe my feelings at this awful

moment." Ansel secured a life preserver but had to fight off the first officer in the water to keep himself from drowning. Also Robert Brown who was at Ansel's wedding said, "I succeeded in getting a piece of the hurricane deck, where I was soon joined by a companion- Mr. John Dement of Oregon City".

At this terrible moment there was probably 477 men on board. Many survivors described the horrifying aftermath of those at the mercy of the sea, chilling wind, and seemingly endless time, hoping to see lights or a sail. Three survivors had latter reported that up to four hours later they had seen and talked to Captain Herndon with a life preserver and floating on a plank. Left alone in the sea Ansel Easton spotted some lights in the distance and struck out for them. Whether it was the lights of the Marine with the 101 saved headed for Norfolk VA. or lights from the ship of the story that follows next he didn't know.

It was a miracle that the Marine had by chance passed by and saved those passengers, but the story your about to read next is such a bizarre twist of fate for a second miracle that it virtually defies human understanding.

Earlier in the day the Norwegian Bark Ellen was heading back to England with mahogany logs. Captain Anders Johnsen was at the helm, when about 6 p.m. a strange bird suddenly appeared and flew at the Captain, grazing his right shoulder. It flew around the vessel, then again around his head. The third time it flew directly at his face, but he grabbed it this time and held it by the legs. "In capturing it," said the Captain, "it gave me a good bite on my right thumb. Two of the crew who assisted in tying its legs were also bitten." It was said the bird (now known as a Frigate Bird) would not take its eyes off the Captain. Typical of the superstition found among many seamen of the era, Captain Johnsen saw as a message this encounter with the strange bird, "I regarded the appearance of the bird as an omen, and an indication to me that I must change my course, I accordingly headed to the eastward direction." The bark had been headed a little N of NE.



Captain Anders Johnsen,  
of the Bark Ellen,  
from Frank Leslie's Illustrated  
Pictorial

Seven hours later about 1 a.m. on Sunday, September 13th, about five hours after the Central America had gone down, miracle number two is about to happen.

Helmsman Gustav Jacobsen had sailed the Ellen directly into the midst of agonizing cries of human voices in all directions in the water. The Captain was alerted and said, "In less than a minute I found that we were surrounded with persons floating in the water. The darkness of the night made it impossible to see them; the voices calling for aid rang in my ears from every direction." Had Johnsen not changed course, his position after the lapse of seven hours would have been far to the N of NW of the scene.

For the next 10 hours Captain Johnsen and his crew heroically rescued 49 men from certain death. Undoubtedly others were missed in the dark. Ansel Easton was rescued after having been in the water about eight hours. After the 47th man was rescued it was looking like no more would be found. At this time Ansel realized his friend from his wedding day, Robert Brown, had not been found so he begged the Captain "to make just one more tack," (another pass back). Easton called: "Brown, Brown," over and over. Soon a small object appeared, it proved to be Robert Brown and John Dement on their floating doors lashed together making number's 48 and 49. Finding no more others at 11 a.m., Captain Johnsen headed the Ellen to Norfolk, VA. He was convinced had it not been for the encounter with the bird, he would have passed far north of the drowning men.

With the Marine ahead of the Ellen both were headed to Norfolk. The next several days journey for all persons aboard was not easy with little to eat or drink and very crowded with the Marine loaded with stinking molasses and some flooding. Some were transferred to other ships as they were nearing the coast. Good news for our newlywed couple; the Easton's were reunited next Saturday September 19 at the National Hotel in Norfolk. Addie said: "of our meeting I cannot speak. Great joy is too deep for words." Twelve other unfortunate couples were denied a happy reunion.

Accounts of the disaster hummed over telegraph wires up and down the east coast. Editorials demanded greater safety at sea and for the construction of a transcontinental railroad. While the loss of the gold spread the financial panic of 1857.

There is one last third extraordinary event that is unfolding and culminating in the saving of three more men. Crew member John Tice after three days by himself on a plank sighted one of the lifeboats used to ferry the passengers to the Marine Saturday afternoon, and was able to get into it, with oars! Meanwhile some



distance away were 10 men on a raft with one hanging on in the water, but one by one 9 slipped into the sea until Alexander Grant and George Dawson were the only ones left. On Thursday the fifth day after the sinking Alexander spotted John in the boat and swam from the raft to the boat. After a brief reunion they rowed back to George on the raft and now the three are in the boat. It would be three more days out on the open water, when on Monday September 21 Captain Colin Shearer of the bark Mary spotted them and rescued the nearly dead men. It was said they drifted at least 500 miles from where the Central America sank.

Soon all the rescued were safely on land, yet recovering, and they all were sort of instant celebrities along with the three rescue ship's Captains and some crew.

Numerous newspaper accounts and interviews of those saved are fascinating to read and are quoted in all the seven books still available. One of my favorites is a touching statement by survivor Mary Swan in her 80's (she was 18 on the ship) when she said: "It is my belief that the majesty of manhood stood forth to the world in all its grandeur when those California miners gave their lives to the rule of the sea."

The survivors would go on with their lives with quite a story to tell many times. Other interesting facts are:

Augustine Pahud's birthday was on that fateful September 12. She turned 9 years old as she was being rowed to the Marine with her mother and two siblings. She was the last survivor and died on November 11, 1941.

The well-known painter and naturalist John W. Audubon had over 200 drawings of California on board the steamer. His brother Victor identified the frigate bird to a newspaper that prompted Captain Johnsen to change the Ellen's course.

Ansel Easton was the first to bring thoroughbreds to California. The famous American landscape photographer and environmentalist Ansel Adams (1902 – 1984) was his nephew.

Mary Swan's grandfather was a close friend of Missouri's Daniel Boone.

Fifteen days after the sinking a note in a bottle from survivor Billy Birch was found in an inland river in Virginia.

Captain Herndon's daughter Ellen married future President Chester Arthur but died before he was elected. Ellen passed down her Father's pocket watch to their son Chester Arthur Jr., its whereabouts unknown.

The newlywed couple Ansel and Adeline Easton salvaged the bell from the SS Sonora in 1868 and donated it to their church. It rang on their wedding day August 20, 1857 while boarding the ship and it rang at Adeline's funeral on June 12, 1916. Adeline is buried next to Ansel in Cypress Lawn Memorial Park in San Mateo, Ca.

A certain man we all know from Missouri by the name of Samuel Clemens said reading Captain Herndon's "Exploration of the Valley of the Amazon" was a turning point in his life.

The tragedy of the Central America was soon eclipsed by the Civil War and passed into legend, but the final chapter was not yet written. There would be a 131 year lapse in time as the remains of the fabled steamer lie on the ocean bottom at about 7,200 ft. down with a pressure of around 3,200 psi.



The scene changes to 1985 when a team of explorers, scientists, and investors headed by Tommy Thompson, Bob Evans and Barry Schatz formed the Columbus America Discovery Group in Ohio. A ship, the Arctic Discoverer, was outfitted with the gear needed for search and recovery with Nemo the homemade built remote submersible



being the valued workhorse of the recovery. The passenger accounts and the different ship's recordings of their positions at sea were crucial to locating the wreck.



Finally on September 11, 1988, 131 years to the day the Central America started taking on water, the live video came into view of the ship's paddle wheels. Soon the bell of the steamer was found and brought up, indisputable evidence of the final resting place. With the gold being the main focus of the recovery, the efforts of the rest of 1988 through 1990 brought up thousands of gold coins and 532 gold ingots, the largest of which known as the 'Eureka Bar' weighing nearly 80 lbs. However this is an archaeological site and gravesite, and great care and respect was taken to map, document, photograph, and video the exploration and recovery. The coins

and ingots (ingots which had never been seen before only heard of) were of such quantity and quality that there was enough of this national treasure that it could be shared. The photos and video of the "garden of gold," as it became known, of the treasure clustered together in a small area that was the "gold room" on the ship is mind numbing. I would urge anyone to get the book *America's Lost Treasure* or of course view You Tube to see and read more.



Many other artifacts from the steamer were found and brought up. A lamp that still contains whale oil for fuel was recovered and is pictured in the book just mentioned. Pictured here is the lamp that your author is the very proud caretaker of. Also two passenger's trunks were recovered. The first trunk was carefully opened at Ohio State Univ. and miraculously contained the possessions of our newlywed couple the Eastons!! The second trunk's owner was John Dement, the last man rescued by the Ellen!

There is another long hiatus of time for the SSCA, with court litigation involving 39 insurance companies, investors, marketing, etc. for some 10 years. The first of the treasure to come to market was a Sotheby's auction in 2000. However there is one more (dare we say last) time that the wreck was visited knowing there was more down there. In 2014 an expedition was launched with a different ship and submersible for the second recovery. The purser's safe was found containing 8,441 dimes plus more. Also recovered were 45 more ingots, thousands more gold and silver coins, unopened bags of gold dust/ nuggets, and many more artifacts. Many of the gold coins from both expeditions are the finest known for their date/mint-mark including many California prooflike fractionals. There are plenty of numismatic items out there for the collector who wants to be a part of this incredible story.

As I close things out I would like to thank Kathy, Dan, Chris and Wes for giving me the opportunity and pleasure to write this shortened version of the SSCA story, and also for the opportunity to display SSCA artifacts at this year's show. I especially want to thank Bob Evans the Chief Scientist and spokesman for the SS Central America. Our meetings and correspondence over the last two years has been a tremendous inspiration to me. The honor of knowing him as someone who was hugely responsible for finding the ship, in the control room of the recovery vessel, and cataloging and curating the thousands of coins, ingots, raw gold and artifacts is a real privilege. One of my greatest hopes is that this incredible story would be made into a major motion picture. Again the SSCA has it all.

My passion for this event in American history is something I enjoy sharing and being the caretaker of some of its treasures is an honor as it also brings a solemn remembrance to those who perished nearly 167 years ago about 160 miles of the South Carolina coast in the vast Atlantic. I hope to keep the SS Central America steaming into the future.

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Christie's Auction Catalog: Gold Rush Treasures from the SS Central America (2000)

Sotheby's Auction Catalog: Treasures from the SS Central America (1999- 2000)

The History Channel: A DVD Video, History's Mysteries Documentary, Ship of Gold

# **The Gallery Mint And The SS Central America**

*By  
C. Joseph Sutter*



We are fortunate this year at the MNS Coin Show to have a display of items raised from the ocean floor from the wreck of the SS Central America. Greg Darnstaedt, the collector behind this exhibit, has also been kind enough to write an article for this Journal describing the events leading to the tragic sinking.

In 2001 the Gallery Mint used several of the gold bars recovered from the wreck to restrike 1855 Fifty-Dollar gold coins issued by Kellogg & Co. I was lucky to see the preparation of the planchets when I made a trip to the Gallery Mint. My experience was documented in the 2001 edition of the Missouri Journal of Numismatics, volume 26, p. 4, in the story “The Gallery Mint or a Detour While on an Arkansas Vacation”.

The Gallery Mint was located in Eureka Springs, Arkansas. It was created by Ron Landis and Joe Rust and operated from 1992 until 2007. Ron Landis is an interesting fellow who loves engraving coins and playing the banjo. It was his engraving interests that caused him to team up with Joe Rust to recreate coins of the past. The author has two such coins: a 1796 gold half eagle and an 1804 Silver Dollar. While these are obviously copies, the craftsmanship of the design and high level striking make them a joy to behold.

Kellogg & Co. was a San Francisco based company first formed by John Kellogg on December 19, 1853 with G.F. Richter as Kellogg & Richter and reformed in 1854 as Kellogg & Humbert with Augustus Humbert replacing Richter. Humbert previously was the United States assayer during the short time, 1851-1853, the California Assay Office was in operation.

Kellogg & Co. issued gold coins in the twenty-dollar denomination in 1854 and 1855. They also created a fifty-dollar coin in 1855. According to the Redbook, “A Guide Book of United States Coins”, approximately 13-15 are known. A recent Heritage Auction reported a sale for \$1.2 million. The Redbook also described the 2001 restrike.

*The Gallery Mint Museum Collectors' Update* of March 2002 offers these re-strikes. It identifies them as being struck from Kellogg & Humbert assay bars recovered from the SS Central America. It said Dwight Manley of the Gold Marketing Group was behind the restrike. Approximately 5,000 were made. Each coin contained 2.419 ounces of gold.

The striking was done in San Francisco, at the foot of the Golden Gate Bridge, on the original press used in the 1970s at the San Francisco Mint, and purchased by the Gallery Mint. The striking took place between August 20 and September 12, 2001. The September 12 date commemorated the 144th anniversary of the sinking of the SS Central America on September 12, 1857. The dies were made using the original dies created by Ferdinand Gruner.

To identify the restrike the ribbon in the eagle's break on the reverse has S.S. CENTRAL AMERICA GOLD C.H.S inscribed on it. The ribbon is blank on the original. C.H.S. stands for the California Historical Society, who shared in the proceeds of the sale. Each coin was also counter stamped with the date of the striking.

The coin was offered at \$5,000. However, each purchase had to be made by calling the Gallery Mint to ensure availability of date counter stamps. A special edition of the Redbook embossed with the SS Central America logo was also included.

On the day this article was written, middle of June 2024, the price of gold was \$2,363. With 2.419 ounces, the melt value of this coin is \$5,716. This value is not very much higher than the 2002 asking price. It also is not very much under the APMEX price of \$6,300.



Cent Puzzle

# Community Currencies in Missouri (and Elsewhere)

By  
Charles Calkins

*“‘What is money?’ Some will say all ‘real money’ is gold or silver. They are wrong. Some will say money is whatever a government says is money. They are wrong. The reality is money, all money, is nothing more than a collective agreement.” – Jack Spirko [1, p23]*

The idea of exchanging a needed item directly for another (“two goats for a sheep”) has existed since time immemorial. Using an intermediate item with an agreed upon value to facilitate the transaction (“two goats for a measure of gold, the same measure of gold for a sheep”) is a more recent development, though still millennia old. Having the intermediate item’s value endorsed by a collective entity such as a national government is newer still, such as with the emergence of coinage in Lydia in the 7<sup>th</sup> century BC. Images such as the head of a lion stamped on the coin assured the parties in the transaction that the intermediate item used in the transaction really did have the value presumed, with the full force of the nation behind it, and woe be to any counterfeiters.

While initially the intermediate item had a value on to itself, such as being composed of a precious metal such as silver or gold, as time continued to pass, intrinsic value was lost and the item became fiat backed only by the promise of the governmental entity that it has value, and the collective agreement of the trans actors in the belief that it does. To support the belief the item must remain available to be used for transactions and its value relatively stable.

Crises can occur when the belief is shaken. For example, in December of 1918 a loaf of bread could be exchanged for ½ of a German Mark. In November 1923, hyperinflation caused the price to rise to 201,000,000,000 Marks. A German writer noted that he had stopped at a cafe for a cup of coffee that cost 5,000 Marks when he placed his order but had risen to 8,000 Marks by the time he had finished it and received his check. [2] On November 12, 1923, the Reichsbank declared the mark to be valueless, fully breaking the agreement of using the Mark as a means of transaction. [3]



As the Mark failed, local communities began to produce their own scrip known as notgeld (“emergency money” or “necessity money”), such as this 10 Billionen (10 trillion) Mark note from the City of Buer. The people collectively agreed that the notgeld had value of

exchange as they trusted the issuing businesses and individuals more than the national government. [3]

Although not quite as dire, the United States experienced something similar during the Depression after the stock market crash of 1929. The lack of currency from the federal government led individual businesses and municipalities to produce their own now known as “Depression scrip” to bridge the gap. [4]



Missouri issued Depression scrip in several areas including the city of Crane, Jackson County, Kansas City, and the city of Steele. [5] This example was issued in 1933 in Sedalia and consists of a note with stamps that were affixed to the back.

This particular example was distributed by Tatham Stamp and Coin as packet number C150B for 25

cents (more information on this company is available in the article titled *Colonial Massachusetts Cents and Their Evanson Restrikes* elsewhere in this Journal) and an informational sheet provided by them that was included with the note and stamps provides an explanation:

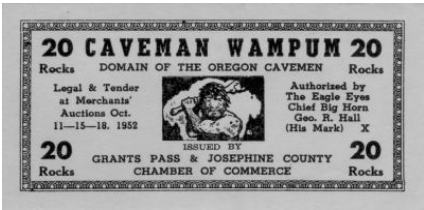
“In 1933, the city of Sedalia, Missouri, found the Treasury unable to meet their payroll and in order to cope with this condition, they issued emergency co-operative currency, a sample specimen of which is enclosed. The Plan: In order for the receiver to pass this currency, it was necessary for him to purchase unused co-operative currency stamps from the City Treasurer at 2c each, affix one to the back of the note and cancel it with his initials and date, each time the bill was passed. After 52 such stamps had been affixed and canceled in the manner described, the note was redeemed by the City Treasurer for one dollar.”



Even with a functioning central economy it can be worthwhile to create a local currency to spur trade with local businesses or promote tourism to bring benefits to the community. In 1922 a group of businessmen in Grants Pass, Oregon decided to dress up as cavemen to promote tourism in the area. They would crash public events, hold weddings in costume and otherwise participated in “zany antics.”

Politicians (including future Presidents Hoover, Kennedy, Nixon and Reagan) were inducted into the

Cavemen Club by having them drink “sabertooth blood out of the butt of a stuffed skunk.” They even suspended the ribbon cutting ceremony of the Golden Gate Bridge for 45 minutes in 1937. [6, 7]



For a month in 1933 they issued their own Depression scrip (“wampum”) in denominations including 25 cents, 50 cents, and one dollar. Of course, cavemen are illiterate and incapable of signing their name, so scrip was only valid if it had the fingerprints of Chief Big Horn, Keeper of the

Wampum, and Wingfeather. In 1952 they issued wampum in denominations including 5 and 20 “rocks” (now “signed” with a printed X) and also produced a 50 cent token in 1959 redeemable at participating businesses in Grants Pass.



Other municipalities more recently have had their own local currencies. As of 2017 over 240 businesses in Baltimore, Maryland accept the Baltimore BNote as produced by the non-profit Baltimore Green Currency Association founded in 2010. “We are working to help create an alternative economy that will strengthen local businesses, create jobs, encourage the formation of local supply chains, and ultimately provide economic opportunity and

increased resilience to communities underserved by traditional economic structures. Our mission: to foster economic opportunity through the administration and expansion of an alternative currency, the BNote, for the communities of Baltimore.” [8] The 1 Baltimore Note features Frederick Douglass, the 5 BN Edgar Allan Poe, and the 10 BN and 20 BN prominent Baltimore women.



While BNotes trade equivalently to US dollars, the Ithaca HOUR, though nominally was considered equivalent to \$10 USD represented one hour’s work, with notes issued in 1/10, 1/8, ¼, ½, 1 and 2 HOURS so was exchanged for goods or labor. As stated on this series 1994 1 HOUR note: “TIME IS MONEY This note entitles the bearer to receive one hour labor or its negotiated value in goods or services. Please accept it, then

spend it. ITHACA HOURS stimulate local business by recycling our wealth locally, and they help fund new job creation. ITHACA HOURS are backed by real capital: our skills, our muscles, our tools, forests, fields and rivers.” It was started in November 1991 by Paul Glover and over time HOURS were accepted by over a thousand individuals and five hundred businesses in Ithaca, New York. They eventually fell into disuse with the popularity of electronic transactions. [9]



The idea of a local currency is a general one. The game arcade Aladdin’s Castle produced tokens used for game plays on their arcade machines. A restaurant such as Red Lobster can issue gift certificates for their meals.

As with Ithaca HOURS and other local currencies, use can be fleeting. The last Aladdin’s Castle, located in Quincy, Illinois, closed in May, 2022 [10], eliminating the ability to redeem any tokens, and at the time of writing, Red Lobster is mulling bankruptcy [11], so no system is truly safe.

All of the local currencies given above have an additional problem – all of their means of exchange, tokens or notes, are fiat and have no intrinsic value in themselves. One is left with only base metal or paper when the collective agreement of its worth is broken. During the German hyperinflation stacks of Marks were cheaper than firewood to burn in their stoves, so at least could be put to some use, while an Aladdin’s Castle token is now just an interesting novelty. [12]

There are those that wish to create local currencies based around precious metals, where, even at the demise of the currency, the means of exchange still has intrinsic value. This also gives the currency a foundation that is more than the promise of an individual or the solvency of a business. Precious metal as the basis also means that the supply of currency is more controlled due to the difficulties of mining, refining and such. Fiat currency can easily be printed or minted and an overabundance of the money supply can lead to inflation, or hyperinflation as with Germany.



The most notorious of these precious metal currencies in recent memory is the Liberty Dollar. Their first issue in 1998 of 150 pieces fully spelled out the name of the organization: NORFED, the “National Organization for the Repeal of the

Federal Reserve and Internal Revenue Code.”



NORFED was created by Bernard von NotHaus. von NotHaus, somewhat a wanderer through life, while living in Hawaii had a “spiritual visitation” on September 11, 1974 to spread the word about gold although he had no background in finance. He produced a 21 page report entitled *To Know Value — An Economic Research Paper* that circulated among his friends. Making good arguments, people were convinced to buy gold leading to his establishment of the Royal Hawaiian Mint in the early 1980s. Becoming rich on the profits and with his abhorrence of the Federal Reserve’s continual printing of fiat money and the depreciation of the dollar he was convinced that he could produce his own better currency based on silver or gold. Thus began NORFED. [13]



The first release already featured their signature representation of the personification of Liberty as would be used on subsequent issues (the symbols on the reverse originated on a Royal Hawaiian Mint issue from 1975 [14]), but it was with the 1999

release that they would add TRUST IN GOD on the obverse, and a face value prefixed by a dollar sign on the reverse along with a torch. At the time, they operated on the basis of one ounce of silver had a ten dollar value, later increasing the basis to twenty dollars, and even fifty dollars per ounce, with issues in fractions of ounces denominated correspondingly. [15]

By 2006 the organization had Regional Currency Officers (RCOs) in half of the U.S. states where the officers would promote the currency for local use. Special issues were minted for the RCOs, such a Missouri-themed one for RCO Steven Brendtro.



1000 one ounce Liberty Dollars were minted for Missouri in 2006 with a twenty dollar face value. The design is similar to the standard Liberty Dollar with the head of Liberty on the

obverse and a torch on the reverse, although MISSOURI appears above the torch. 170 of these have a Missouri state hallmark punched above “\$20.” Out of those 170, 100 have a number from 001 to 100 punched above “Liberty Dollar”, 50 have nothing in that place, and 20 have Bernard von NotHaus’ triangular hallmark punched there – his hallmark indicates a first-day-of-issue release. The unmarked ones are referred to as the “general issue.” [16, 15]

2006 was the same year that the federal government took notice of the Liberty Dollar effort and warned consumers on September 14 that “despite their misleading appearance, NORFED ‘Liberty Dollar’ medallions are not genuine United States Mint coins, and they are not legal tender.” and that “prosecutors

with the United States Department of Justice have concluded that the use of NORFED's 'Liberty Dollar' medallions violates 18 U.S.C. §486, and is a crime." [17]

Liberty Dollars continued to be produced, and about a year later, on November 14, 2007, both the Liberty Dollar headquarters in Evansville, Indiana and their mint, Sunshine Minting in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, were raided. Stored bullion, currency, and computers were seized, though it wasn't until June 2009 that von NotHaus and others were arrested for counterfeiting. The indictment, filed May 19, 2009, outlines the similarities between Liberty Dollars and US coinage in paragraphs 35 to 43 [19]. In particular:

- Liberty Dollars have a dollar sign (\$), use the word "dollar," and are engraved with "USA." (§§ 35, 43)
- Two are the same size as US coins with the Liberty Dollar \$5 the size of a Kennedy half dollar, and the Liberty Dollar \$10 the size of an Eisenhower dollar. (§§ 36, 37)
- They have the motto "Trust in God" which is similar to the motto on US coins of "In God We Trust." (§ 38)
- Liberty Dollars feature a torch as does the US dime and dollar (at the time, where the Statue of Liberty is holding a burning torch). They also feature the head of Liberty "with a crowned head remarkably similar, if not exactly the same, as the crowned head on the Statue of Liberty" as featured on the James Monroe dollar, as well as use the word "Liberty." (§§ 39, 40, 41)
- They are silver in color as are US cupronickel coins. (§ 42)

Pending resolution of the criminal charges, von NotHaus announced on July 31, 2009, that he had closed the Liberty Dollar operation (NORFED as a not-for-profit organization had already closed on November 22, 2006 [19]).

It is clear from the list of objections, however, that no Liberty Dollar issue is a direct copy of a US coin. Some design elements are similar, but the other objections are coincidental, or a stretch. And, of course, they are silver in color because they ARE silver, unlike current US coinage, which arguably alone would be enough to confirm a Liberty Dollar is not a counterfeit of any modern circulating coin produced by the US Mint.

Unfortunately, however, the prosecution was able to secure a conviction on March 18, 2011 [20]. It was clear, however, that the government wanted to make an example. That same day, Anne M. Tompkins, US Attorney for the Western District of North Carolina, said "attempts to undermine the legitimate currency of this country are simply a unique form of domestic terrorism" and "while these forms of anti-government activities do not involve violence, they are every bit as insidious and represent a clear and present danger to the economic stability of this country," she added. She continued by saying "We are determined to meet these threats through infiltration, disruption, and

dismantling of organizations which seek to challenge the legitimacy of our democratic form of government.” [21]

To this, von NotHaus commented “This is the United States government... It’s got all the guns, all the surveillance, all the tanks, it has nuclear weapons, and it’s worried about some ex-surfer guy making his own money? Give me a break!” [22] von NotHaus faced up to 15 years imprisonment and up to a \$250,000 fine on count two of the indictment, and up to 5 years and up to \$250,000 on counts one and three. Nearly \$7 million worth of Liberty Dollar coins and precious metal was also potentially to be seized.

It was clear to the judge at sentencing, however, that the government had overstepped. Instead of over two decades behind bars, von NotHaus was sentenced to three years probation and six months home confinement which was terminated after one year of probation. [23, 24] The government also was ordered to release the bullion that was seized that belonged to third parties [25] although not everything was returned to their owners. A friend of the author’s was one such victim, summarizing their loss of property as “we just wrote it off as another win for the Federal Mafia.”



The first Liberty Dollars issued after the raid were dated 2008 and had a blank space on the reverse instead of the torch (known as the “naked back”) where RCOs could add their own hallmarks. A stamp of the Missouri state outline was created by Ron

Goodger for RCO Joshua Deatherage. Some of these also are reported to have “Willow Springs,” “Cabool,” or “Mountain Grove” additionally unofficially stamped on them, with Cabool the home of Deatherage [26] and Willow Springs and Mountain Grove neighboring towns.

Despite the court’s actions, these issues still had many of the same problematic design elements such as the motto, denomination in dollars, and representation of Liberty. “MSRP” and “PVBC” were added to the reverse, however, presumably “Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price” and “Private Voluntary Barter Currency” to be more compliant.



Although on July 31, 2009 the Liberty Dollar operation was shut down, the Liberty Dollar design was able to be licensed by Bud’s Gun Shop, and from 2009 to at least 2014 second amendment-themed issues were produced with the Liberty

Dollar representation of Liberty on the obverse (though the motto changed to PROTECT LIFE) and a firearm on the reverse that differed from year to year.



In 2016, 2017 and 2020 Donald Trump-themed Liberty Dollar-branded issues were produced by von NotHaus [27]. These feature Trump’s head on the obverse and the Liberty Dollar torch on the reverse. Issues were produced in one ounce

units of copper, silver and gold with stated values of \$5, \$25 and \$2000 respectively. Each had legends such as TRUMP THE GOVERNMENT, VOTE NON POLITICIAN and RE-ELECT THE PRESIDENT depending upon the year. First-day-of-issue releases were hallmarked with von NotHaus’ pyramid such as this release from 2017.



Recently the Liberty Dollar Financial Association has been created [28] to provide the same sort of services that existed before the raid, but they seem to be much more careful. An entry in their Frequently Asked Questions asks “Is LDFA Trying To Compete

With The US Dollar?” with the response “No. Liberty Dollars and Liberty Dollar Silver Certificates are legal Bearer Warehouse Receipts that are evidence of title to a specific amount of .999 Fine Silver stored with us, and may be freely traded with anyone. This is a system for the exchange of Paper or Digital Warehouse Receipts, but neither of them constitute ‘Legal Tender.’ Both are intended as mediums of barter, and both are redeemable in actual .999 fine Silver Bullion.” The design also avoids the problems of the past. While the obverse still features the same venerable representation of Liberty, there is no motto and no stated monetary value. The torch is also no longer present – one issue has an eagle on the reverse and another has a QR code which leads to a LDFA silver value calculator page. It does have the phrase “private money for private people,” echoing the overall philosophy.

While Bernard von NotHaus continued with the Liberty Dollar idea, two Missouri RCOs went on to other projects.

In 2018, in association with Bernard von NotHaus’ son Extra (who, incidentally, has a brother named Random), Steven Brendtro founded LD2 LLC, a company that allows the trading of Liberty Dollars digitally on the WAX blockchain like a cryptocurrency. “Simply put, this means that a customer buys the physical silver up-front, and instead of taking immediate delivery of that silver, receives a warehouse receipt in the form of a digital token. LD2 LLC only sells silver, not tokens — the digital tokens are always the receipt. Since the physical silver coins are purchased up-front, these tokenized receipts can be redeemed at any time for the physical silver coins. Token holders’ silver coins are secured in a fully insured vault that is subject to strict third-party audits on a regular basis, with results recorded on-chain.” [29]

“What problem does LD2 solve? The LD2 protocol creates digital tokens that are globally liquid, value-stable, and with low volatility, solving the issue of cryptocurrency’s market volatility. These asset-backed digital tokens are 100% backed by precious metals and function without relying on a federal central bank. The LD2 protocol combines the stability of precious metals with the benefits of digital assets, offering the best of both worlds.” [30] Incidentally, while LD2 uses the blockchain to trade Liberty Dollars, other non-precious metal community currencies record transactions on the blockchain including experiments in Turkey, the United Kingdom, Kenya, and elsewhere. [31, 32] A pilot project in Germany even provides participants with a Universal Basic Income on a blockchain-based community currency system. [33]

Joshua Deatherage created two local currencies with web sites for them going live in late 2008 [34, 35]. The first is the Community Dollar, with denominations of 1 troy ounce (\$50), 2/5 oz (\$20), 1/5 oz (\$10), and 1/10 oz (\$5), each with an obverse featuring an oak tree with FAITH FAMILY FREEDOM above. A one ounce copper issue has a face value of \$2.



“As Deatherage explains, ‘I started thinking about a local silver currency the day after the Liberty Dollar was raided by the FBI.’ He was concerned that the first value based currency might not survive so his new Community Dollar is only intended to circulate in central Missouri. After three-and-a-half years, the young monetary entrepreneur who wanted to encourage local trade and commerce in his community, reports that over 60 merchants around

Cabool and Mountain Grove are now using his Silver Community Dollar.” At the time at least \$80,000 worth of Community Dollars were circulating in the area. [36]

Although not associated with the Liberty Dollar, it is described fondly by Bernard von NotHaus as he writes “Joshua Deatherage and his Community Dollar exemplify the can-do American spirit at work in the central Missouri Ozarks.” [36]



The second is the Dixie Dollar where the “Dixie Dollar is privately-minted .999 fine silver currency for the purpose of enabling the southern people to establish a sound monetary system free of the international banking cartels. The Dixie Dollar is

Liberty Dollar compatible and may be spent at many Liberty Dollar merchants nationwide. It is also meant to spent in this current economy so take some

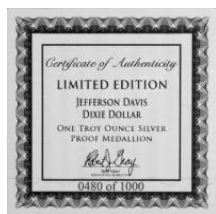
along on our next trip to town and help the South build a sound monetary system one dollar at a time.” [35, errors in original]. The list of merchants accepting the currency includes ones in Cabool and Rosebud.

The obverse of the Dixie Dollar features Jefferson Davis, the president of the Confederate States of America, with the legend “GOD SAVE THE SOUTH.” The reverse of this issue mirrors that of his Community Dollar, although the URL now references the Dixie Dollar web site instead of the Community Dollar one.



Another issue of the Dixie Dollar has the same obverse, but the reverse features a Confederate flag. The phrase “AOCS APPROVED” now appears, and the denomination is written in a block letter font similar to other American Open Currency

Standard approved issues. “© 2009 JMD” refers to Joshua M. Deatherage, and this issue is available in both proof and circulation strike finishes.



Included with the proof issue was a certificate of authenticity signed by Robert J. Gray, the executive director of the American Open Currency Standard organization and who was also the Liberty Dollar RCO for Texas [37]. The numbered certificate indicates that 1000 were minted.



Local currency issues that are “AOCS approved” adhere to a standard that the AOCS have defined. “AOCS has set a common standard for the legion of community currencies cropping up around the United States. The reliable, documented standard allows communities and individuals to create their own medallion designs. Regardless of design, AOCS medallions and rounds can be used to trade for goods and services as long as they conform to the standard.” [38] “As administrators of The Standard, the AOCS team is charged with ensuring that all copper, silver and gold medallions produced bearing our mark – AOCS APPROVED – contain the specified weight of only investment-grade .999 fine silver, .999 fine copper or .9999 fine gold. In fact, the AOCS guarantees every medallion produced by our authorized minting facilities. By approving only investment-grade copper, silver and gold, the AOCS eliminates the opportunity for gradual debasement over time through generational shifts in purity requirements.” [39] This facilitates trade between different groups that want to produce their own local currencies. “The American Open Currency Standard is a temporary bridge between the world of government-imposed fiat currencies and a free-market system where commodities and other stores of value are actively traded in the Marketplace. It is our ultimate goal to see goods and services once again priced in ounces, grams or grains alongside variable ‘paper’

prices. When this is done, we will know our mission is successful.” [40]  
 AOCS, too, have tried to protect themselves from the tribulations of the past.  
 “Coins that are AOCS Approved should not be confused with the Liberty  
 Dollar, which was discontinued after a lengthy court battle. AOCS is part of a  
 legal bartering system, and does not claim to be legal tender, unlike the ill-fated  
 Liberty Dollar.” [38]

On August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012, Gray testified in front of Ron Paul’s Congressional  
 Subcommittee on Domestic Monetary Policy. He reiterated that AOCS  
 medallions are not in competition with the Federal Reserve Note because  
 honest competition is not possible – that the private central bank and men in  
 government that support it are thieves. It is Congress’ responsibility to coin  
 and regulate money, and since 1913 (the Federal Reserve Act) Congress has  
 failed to do its job so individuals must take up the task. [41]



One other AOCS approved local  
 currency in Missouri was created by  
 Mark Opheim, a resident of the Hi-  
 Pointe neighborhood [42], two issues,  
 a 50 Talents of one ounce silver  
 (shown here), and a 25 Talents of one  
 half ounce silver, were produced. [43]

They are both St. Louis themed and the 50 Talents references Dogtown, an  
 Irish section of St. Louis that spans five neighborhoods including Hi-Pointe.  
 [44] upphouse.com, the site referenced on the issue, appears to have gone live  
 in 2013. The upphouse.com web site also references the Community Dollars  
 on the Pieces page, and the business directory lists a Mountain Grove business  
 that supports the issue, so it, too, ties into the other Missouri local currency  
 efforts.



A local currency using AOCS  
 approved medallions also exists  
 outside of the United States with  
 issues from the Free Lakota Bank  
 that was launched in 2008. [45] The  
 obverse of their issues feature Chief  
 Crazy Horse and medallions of

various denominations have been issued such as this 2011 two hundred and  
 fifty dollar composed of five ounces of silver.

Why they chose a precious metal-backed currency is described on their web  
 site: “The Lakota Indian Nation considers paper money to be the root cause of  
 most injustice in the world. Objective money, currency minted from gold, silver  
 and copper, can’t be artificially created and loaned into circulation. Its high  
 acquisition, refinement and production cost limits the speed at which it enters  
 the marketplace. The very nature of the work required to place it into  
 circulation helps establish its value in the marketplace. Over many generations,  
 however, the true understanding of what money really is has degraded from ‘an

equivalent of wealth produced’ to our present-day ‘legal tender’. Governments today, subservient to international banking conglomerates, inflate paper money supplies, manipulate interest rates, and stimulate circulation of their currency through taxation and force. So long as merchants, business owners and traders are willing to accept and circulate the valueless currency, the world will continue to be plagued with our modern form of slavery. Servitude can only be ended by producers demanding payment for their goods and services in real money.” [46]

Reminiscent of the federal government warning users of Liberty Dollars, in 2013 the South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation warned users of the Free Lakota Bank that the “Free Lakota Bank is not licensed, chartered or regulated by the Division of Banking. The bank also does not have FDIC insurance.” [47]

There are many groups that have turned to precious metal medallions (AOCS approved for easier trade, or otherwise) to express their philosophies. A countless number display themes of Libertarianism, individualism, personal freedom and responsibility, liberty, survivalism, and anti-government/anti Federal Reserve sentiment, with a sampling presented here.



Forbidden Coins issued this AOCS approved copper round commemorating 100 years of fiat currency (the anniversary in 2013 of the 1913 creation of the Federal Reserve). The obverse is based on the US \$50 gold bullion coin, but

with a denomination of TWO TRILLION (with “dollars” intentionally excluded) and the phrases IN DEBT WE TRUST and E PERDITUS REFECI (“from debilitated, restore” or “out of bankruptcy, rebuild”). The reverse is described as “The reverse of Trillion shows a solution according to the US Constitution Article 1 section 8; ‘*Congress shall have the power... To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures*’. So according to law, with a stroke of a pen, Congress can produce a special coin with a value of whatever is necessary to pay off the debt to the private corporation called the Federal Reserve Bank. Although there wasn't enough room in this area of the medallion, the preferred statement desired was to be; ‘*Dear Federal Reserve Bank, Thank you for 100 years of service, however your services are no longer required. Please accept these coins as tender of payment on the debt. Have a nice day. United States Congress*’ but the simple phrase ‘You're Fired!’ worked nicely as well, even though I did not know in 2013 that Donald Trump would later be in the office of the presidency!” [48, italics in original]





GOVERNMENT IS THE PROTECTION OF LIFE, LIBERTY AND PROPERTY and not the myriad of departments, programs and services that have developed outside of its original purview.

The Free State Project is a New Hampshire-based organization that advocates for limited government where individual people value liberty and responsibility. [49] This 2010 AOCS approved copper round states that THE MAXIMUM ROLE OF



This 2009 AOCS approved half ounce medallion encourages the user to GO LOCAL BUY LOCAL and that BARTER IS BETTER. It does feature a dollar sign and a value of 25 which corresponds to a base of 50 for a full ounce.



Bitcoin was envisioned as a decentralized form of currency that could be independent of government control. Other than the aforementioned LD2, cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin do not have such a physical asset backing, and no physical tokens that trade as that currency. Cryptocurrency-themed medallions do exist, and interestingly this is an AOCS approved one ounce silver round from 2017 with Bitcoin imagery. That is, it is not the currency itself which is grounded in precious metal, but a real-world medallion that is.

Bitcoin was envisioned as a decentralized form of currency that could be independent of government control. Other than the aforementioned LD2, cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin do not have such a physical asset



This Christmas-themed AOCS approved one ounce copper round encourages the use of non-fiat currency with the message of GIVE THE GIFT OF REAL MONEY. As is typical for an ounce of copper it has the value of two.



With a message along the same lines the 2010 Ag Trading Post is RETURNING HONEST TRADE TO AMERICA by using silver medallions. It has a value of 50 as a full ounce.



This AOCS approved 2012 Fugio-themed “talisman” also has a similar message equating Liberty and silver as CURRENCY OF FREE SOVEREIGN INDEPENDENT AMERICANS. Their ideals are expressed on their web site: “We

invite you to consider restoring our rights, laws and value in our towns across America by using Bill of Rights Silver ©, 1 oz. .999 silver pieces as community currency. What better way to keep our Bill of Rights and communities alive. Using Bill of Rights Silver © pieces also help we the people avoid the losses caused by the unconstitutional, deteriorating and inflationary federal reserve-created fiat currency – which our forefathers outlawed by Article 1, Sec. 10 of the Constitution and the 1792 Coinage Act.” “Please join us in returning America to its roots by carrying, showing, and \*exchanging these valuable talismans as a reminder to all people everywhere how precious our founding documents, our founding laws and our freedom is.

\*Remember – our valuable silver pieces are not U.S. currency – since what is being used as U.S. currency or ‘legal tender’ at present is totally unlawful – being unconstitutional – resulting in theft from we the people, since it is printed out of thin air – yet exchanged for our real substance of labor, property, services and goods. In our Declaration of Independence – our forefathers declared: ‘He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people and eat out their substance.’

Since 1913, the mostly foreign-controlled federal reserve private banks – who appear to control the politicians dba the U.S. government – have put us back into the exact same kind of slavery with the creation of their ‘federal reserve banks’ and ‘income tax statutes’. Ask yourself and your neighbors – since the constitution states that clearly that only Congress can coin the money and set the value thereof – Why should we pay interest on our own money?” [50]



Anti-Federal Reserve and central banking themes are prevalent on this Occupy Wall Street / Silver Liberation Army issue. Their web site excitedly states “Today Starts a New Era! Where the people that function within the ‘system’ will no

longer tolerate the corruption that surrounds our every day lives as it is! We the people are starting to take peaceful action against the corporate banking occupation that stands to hold us down and suppress our well being. This is no longer acceptable when banksters can take millions of dollars in bonuses while taking away our homes, the food from our families mouths, our assets, our savings and our dignity... because of a system they designed to destruct! These banking elite took these bonuses immediately after they took bailouts from our government’s tax dollars that we worked hard to earn and contribute

into! They took these bonuses without concern or regret. And Yet They Boast They Are Too Big To Fail... WRONG AGAIN! No longer can we stand to allow a banking system that is trying to create a Criminal New World Order and One World Currency under their control without any say from us... the People. No More!!! 'FIAT MONEY SUCKS!' We the people will no longer tolerate rapid inflation due to printing of your worthless fiat currencies without protecting ourselves from your global tyranny! The Silver Liberation is Strong and We Stand United on a Global front... We Will Beat You at Your Own Game by Purchasing the One Weakness You Have Left Exposed!!! SILVER We will not be stopped! We will not coward to your suppressed prices and we will continue buying this precious hedge against your inflation until we have... WON! Inflation is a Crime!" [51, exclamation points and block capitals in the original]



Alluding to a dystopian future is the theme of this 2010 AOCs approved copper token, issued by the fictional d'Anconia Copper copper mining company featured in Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged*. [52] It states MONEY: THE ROOT OF ALL

GOOD and READ *ATLAS SHRUGGED*. As seen previously, as a one ounce copper issue it has a value of two. "The book depicts a dystopian United States in which private businesses suffer under increasingly burdensome laws and regulations. Railroad executive Dagny Taggart and her lover, steel magnate Hank Rearden, struggle against 'looters' who want to exploit their productivity. They discover that a mysterious figure called John Galt is persuading other business leaders to abandon their companies and disappear as a strike of productive individuals against the looters. The novel ends with the strikers planning to build a new capitalist society based on Galt's philosophy." [53]



This idea of standing against the system is expressed in this AOCs approved silver issue from The Survivalist Podcast (TSP). The legend IF 300 CAN STAND WHAT CAN 55 MILLION DO and the Spartan helmet allude to the Battle of

Thermopylae in 480 BC where 300 Spartans defended a narrow pass against the much larger Persian army.



The Survivalist Podcast also issued this AOCs approved medallion in 2013 with the theme of preparation for the future. The ant symbolism and legend COGITO ERGO SUM FORMICA ("I think therefore I am an ant") [54] is inspired by the story

of the grasshopper and the ant [55] where the conscientious and responsible ant builds housing and stores food in preparation for winter while the grasshopper plays, does not plan ahead, and doesn't listen to the warnings from the ant of the impending tough times. The ant survivalist lives through the winter but the grasshopper does not.



There are some medallions which have themes that don't reject government but want to transform it from within. This AOCS approved copper round commemorates 20 years of the Constitution Party, "Constitutionally Correct Candidates"

that are "Brewing the Right Cup of Tea Since 1992."



Similarly, this 2009 Liberty Dollar copper round is a Tea Party Dollar with the head of Liberty, legends of FREEDOM, JUSTICE FOR ALL and USE REAL MONEY and features a tea pot with TAXES under a "NOT" symbol.

Two of the most divisive issues of individual freedom versus government control that are well known to the general public above and beyond the monetary system are the right to bear arms and cannabis consumption. Those on the side of individual freedom tend to support both issues, presuming personal responsibility will curb abuses rather than requiring government intervention to do so, and representation on medallic issues reflects that. While many pro-2nd Amendment and pro-cannabis legalization tokens exist, one would be hard-pressed to find any against.

At the federal level these issues are intertwined. ATF Form 4473, the Firearms Transaction Record which is required for the background check for one to obtain a modern firearm, prohibits "an unlawful user of... marijuana..." in question 21f. [56] The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and Explosives is a law enforcement agency within the United States Department of Justice [57] and thus federal rules apply to form 4473. Even, as in the case of Missouri where cannabis is legal for both medical and recreational purposes, it is still a federal crime, and one who partakes is an unlawful user in federal eyes.



The spirit of defiance was not only exhibited by the Spartans in their defense at the Battle of Thermopylae, but in their response shortly before the battle. Xerxes I, king of the Achaemenid Persian Empire demanded the Spartans surrender

their weapons, and their king, Leonidas I, replied “molon labe” (μολὼν λαβέ : “Come and take [them]”). [58] This is now used as a modern slogan in the response to the government’s desire for one to surrender one’s firearms.



This Silver Bullet Silver Shield issue from 2013 also features the molon labe theme. As per their web site: “Silver Bullet Silver Shield is not a person, it is not a blog or a website, it is not a product. You cannot steal it, you can’t pervert it, or destroy it.

Silver Bullet Silver Shield is an idea. It is the idea that physical silver, in any form, held by an individual, is both a defense against inflation and against the destructiveness of fractional banking. It is the idea that acquiring silver is a direct way to expedite the collapse of the fragile, fraudulent banking system. It is the reminder to our society that physical silver is both the bullet and the shield that defend us in the war that we face today, against our values and our self-esteem. It is the idea that we know our values and will not give them up. It is the idea that we know our principles and will not see them ignored. It is the idea that we own our selves, and will not lay down and stop fighting. Ideas, as we know, are bulletproof.” [59]



Forbidden Coins issued this AOC approved copper round in 2013 which extends the theme further. The obverse features the Concord Militiaman statue at the Old North Bridge with the date April 19, 1775 behind it. [48] As described by the

National Park Service: “In the days, weeks, and months leading to April 19, 1775, tensions across the colony of Massachusetts reached a boiling point. The previous summer British warships closed Boston Harbor, Royal Governor, General Thomas Gage, tasked with implementing the wildly unpopular Massachusetts Government Act, also dismissed the elected Massachusetts legislature, the Great and General Court. In October Patriot leaders called for a Provincial Congress in Massachusetts. Towns across Massachusetts chose to send representatives to this essentially illegal body which immediately proceeded to assume political power. They took control of the colony’s militia forces, and began stockpiling arms, ammunition and provisions. Their goal was to raise and equip an army of 15,000 men. Isolated in Boston, General Gage was running out of options. At last, following the advice he received from his superiors in England, Gage decided to send a force of around 700 soldiers on a secret expedition into the countryside to seize and destroy arms and supplies and disrupt the colonists’ warlike preparations. His target was the town of Concord, 18 miles northwest of Boston, where a considerable quantity of these arms and supplies were stockpiled.” [60] Thus the phrase on the obverse of THEY ARE COMING FOR THE ARMS – it was the colonists resistance to surrender arms that led to the battle at Concord. The phrase on the reverse

FROM MY COLD DEAD HANDS NO COMPROMISE NO SURRENDER  
reiterates the desire to resist.



Created in 1765, the Sons of Liberty were an organization in the original thirteen colonies that was founded to advance the rights of colonists, such as fighting against the Stamp Act in 1765, through the Revolution and beyond. [61] This silver round from 2017 alludes to the modern incarnation where I AM THE DESCENDANT OF MEN WHO WOULD NOT BE RULED. The obverse also features the Roman number III surrounded by thirteen stars, the symbol of the Three Percenters. As stated on their web site: “During the American Revolution, the active forces in the field against the King’s tyranny never amounted to more than 3% of the colonists. Three Percenters today identify with this 3% because they were true patriots fighting for the freedoms the nation we love and honor was founded on. Three Percenters intend to maintain their God-given natural rights to liberty and property. History itself, for good or ill, is made by determined minorities. Never underestimate the power of a small group of committed citizens to change the world.” [62]



Cannabis legalization often focuses on the fact that a plant is illegal with legends such as LEGALIZE NATURE on this silver round from 2015. The bust of the smoking woman was designed by Heidi Wastweet (HW is at the base of the arm), a renowned medallist and sculptor who has designed over 1,000 coins, medals and tokens since 1987. [63]



A related Silver Shield copper round from 2016 has a similar reverse image, but the obverse features a cannabis leaf and the legend LEGALISER NATURE, French for “legalize nature.”



There are at least three Liberty Leaf USA proof one ounce silver rounds minted in Oregon, likely with mintages of 1,000 pieces, each featuring a different species of cannabis on the obverse and a quote on the reverse. This one features *Cannabis indica* with a quote from Abraham Lincoln: “Those who deny

freedom to others deserve it not for themselves.” It has a denomination of “one silver indica.” Indica strains are typically sedating and relaxing. [64]



effects enhancing physical and creative activities. [64]



*Cannabis ruderalis* has minimal effects due to its natually low concentration of THC but can be bred with other strains to create a more powerful hybrid. [65]



Lastly, this AOCS approved one ounce copper round from 2021 has the simple legend of LEGALIZE IT and a cannabis leaf. As was the earlier token, this was also minted by d’Anconia Copper, here a real-world company.

As has been seen, there is no shortage of local currencies that can operate in cooperation with that of the federal government. Unfortunately, however, many of these currencies have fallen by the wayside, including all related to Missouri that were mentioned above, although by being precious metal-based means the medallions themselves still have value. Frequently the URLs on each medallion are no longer active, although the contents can be retrieved from the Internet Archive (<https://archive.org/>). The last time the sites were

Last Archived	URL
2011	<a href="https://www.aocsbarter.com/">https://www.aocsbarter.com/</a>
2012	<a href="http://www.dixiedollar.org/">http://www.dixiedollar.org/</a>
2013	<a href="http://www.communitydollar.net/">http://www.communitydollar.net/</a>
2013	<a href="https://agtradingpost.com/">https://agtradingpost.com/</a>
2014	<a href="https://tspmint.com/">https://tspmint.com/</a>
2015	<a href="http://silverliberationarmy.com/">http://silverliberationarmy.com/</a>
2016	<a href="http://upphouse.com/">http://upphouse.com/</a>
2018	<a href="http://freelakotabank.com/">http://freelakotabank.com/</a>
2019	<a href="http://billofrightsilver.com/">http://billofrightsilver.com/</a>
2021	<a href="http://opencurrency.com/">http://opencurrency.com/</a> (AOCS)
2022	<a href="https://danconiacu.com/">https://danconiacu.com/</a>

archived can be used as a measure as to when they ceased to exist.

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# A Missouri Record

*continued from the July, 2023 issue*

The editor encourages reader assistance in locating, attributing, and documenting the historical significance of numismatic items relating to Missouri. This column provides a place to publish unusual exnumia, thereby preserving such items for future research.

151. Obv. LAMBERT'S CAFÉ / SIKESTON, MO

Rev. BLANK



152. Obv. THE ONLY HOME OF /  
THROWED ROLLS / SIKESTON, MO  
OZARK, MO FOLEY, AL

Rev. BLANK



153. Obv. ST LOUIS INDEPENDENT  
CAFETERIA / PACKING CO.

Rev. TOKEN / FOR / DISH BUSSING /  
IN / PLANT / CAFETERIA



154. Obv. BOARD OF EDUCATION LUNCH ROOM /  
ST. LOUIS / MO.

Rev. SAME AS OBERSE



A similar token appeared in the 2014 MNS Journal (Volume 39) for the Board of Education Cafeteria

# How Well Do You Know the Federal Reserve

1. What is the Federal Reserve System (Federal Reserve)?
  - a. central bank of the United States. It has three key objectives: maximize employment, stabilize prices and moderate long-term interest rates.
  - b. bureau of the Treasury responsible for producing coinage for the United States.
  - c. highest court in the Federal Judiciary of the United States functioning as the ultimate appellate jurisdiction over all federal court cases.
2. How many Federal Reserve Banks are there?
  - a. 5
  - b. 23
  - c. 12
  - d. 13
  - e. 75
3. Which of these cities have Federal Reserve Banks?
  - a. New York City
  - b. St. Louis
  - c. Kansas City
  - d. Seattle
  - e. Denver
  - f. San Francisco
4. When was the Federal Reserve established?
  - a. 1776
  - b. 1813
  - c. 1913
  - d. 1945
  - e. 1965
5. Which Federal Reserve Bank serves Missouri? Hint: this is trick question.
  - a. Chicago
  - b. St. Louis
  - c. Kansas City
  - d. San Francisco
  - e. Denver
6. How were the Federal Reserve Bank cities chosen?
  - a. The population in 1913 was divided into 12 equal sections and the closest city with a population over one million was selected.
  - b. Only cities existing before 1861 with a population over 100,000 were considered.
  - c. The selectors choose the city they were from.
  - d. Cities with the largest populations in 1913 were chosen.
  - e. Only cities east of or on the Mississippi River were considered.

7. What is a numismatic connection to the Federal Reserve?
  - a. On Federal Reserve Notes the Bank is identified in the seal that is printed on the note.
  - b. Each Bank is represented on the Federal Reserve Quarters which were minted 1987 – 1989.
  - c. There is a Red Book about the banknotes of the Federal Reserve.
  - d. There is no numismatic connection.
8. How are the Federal Reserve Banks identified?
  - a. With a cute emoji, for example: St. Louis is a smiley face and Chicago is a crying face.
  - b. With letters and numbers. The banks are numbered one through twelve and “A” through “L”. For example: St. Louis is H8 and Chicago is G7.
  - c. By name, no alternates are used.
  - d. With animal names, for example: St. Louis is a lion and Chicago is a duck.
9. The Presidents of the Federal Reserve Banks meet to determine the Federal Reserve policy at the:
  - a. OMWI – Office of Minority and Women Inclusion
  - b. FRFS – Federal Reserve Financial Services Division
  - c. MNS – Missouri Numismatic Society
  - d. FOMC – Federal Open Market Committee
  - e. COVID – Coronavirus Disease
10. Why was the Federal Reserve created?
  - a. The panic of 1907, and others, lead to central control of the monetary system. The 1907 panic was caused by an attempt to corner the market on the stock of the United Copper Company.
  - b. The wreck of the SS Central America in 1857 lead to central control of the monetary system since the system was based on gold reserves and the wreck prevented needed gold reserves from reaching New York City.
  - c. The Great Depression, which was caused by the stock market crash of 1929, lead to central control of the stock market and the banks that assisted the market.
  - d. The Civil War, 1861 – 1865, highlighted the United State governments need to raise funds and to access federal reserves.

Bonus Question: Who is the President of the Kansas City Federal Reserve Bank?

- a. Jeff Schmid
- b. Joe Biden
- c. Kathy Skelton
- d. Woodrow Wilson

*Answers on page 76*

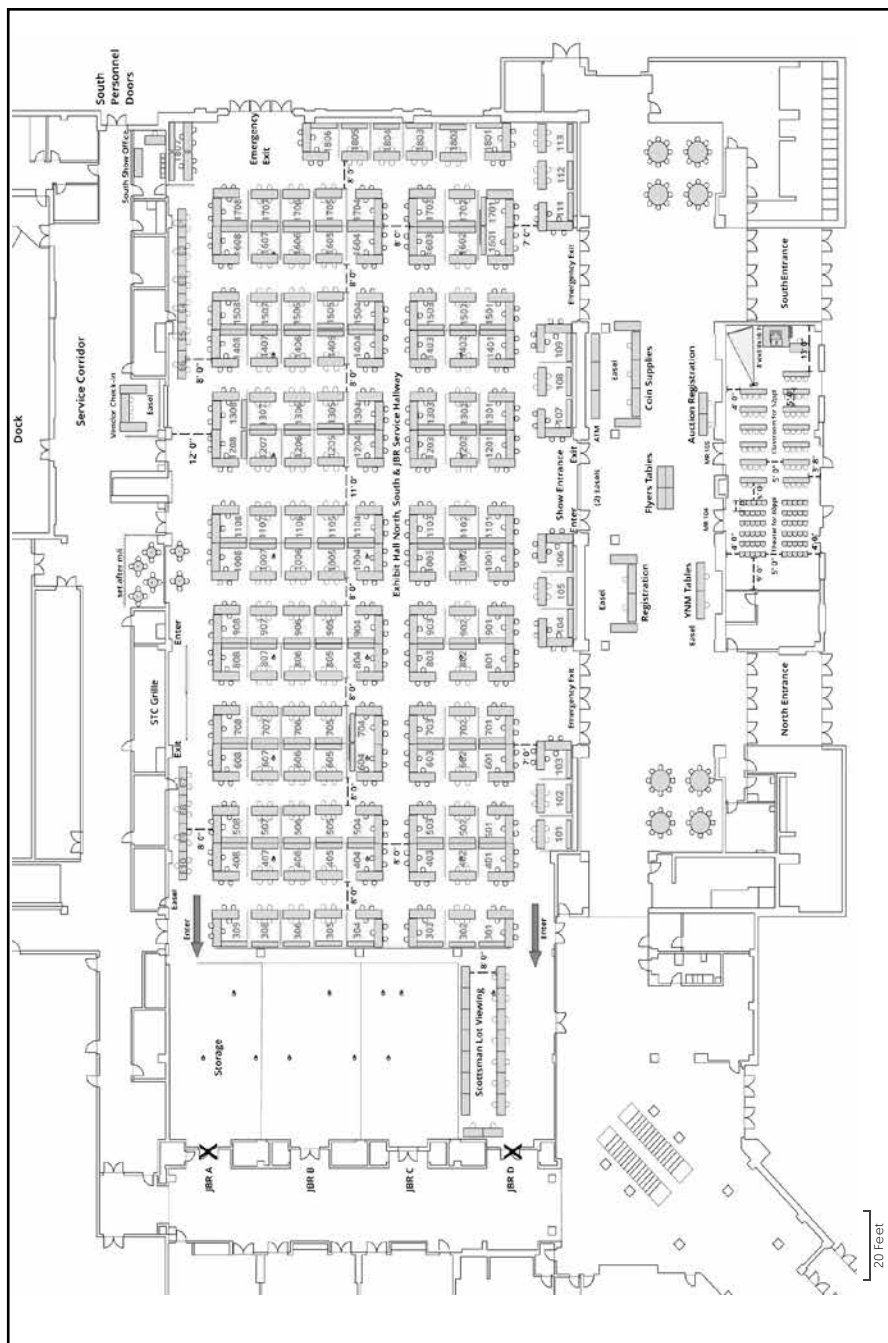
## Alphabetical Dealer to Booth # Listing

Booth Sign Name	Booth #	Booth Sign Name	Booth #	Booth Sign Name	Booth #
ACE Coins	806	Dusty Royer's Notes of Note	902	Kentucky Coin Cabinet	407
Alexander Basok	1206	Eagle Rare Coin Co.	1802	Key Coins	1405
Allen G. Berman Professional Numismatist	1507	Eric Alexander	803	Langham Rare Coins	1104
Americana Collectors	1701	Falcon Coins	404	Largo Coin & Currency / Madison Coin & Currency	1407
ANACS	1804	FRN, Inc. / Matt King	1006	Larry Lucree Numismatics	1401
Andrew Reiber Inc	1103	Front Range Coin & Currency	605	Larry Tekamp RCB	1102
Appraisal Services - We Buy Coins	1003	FUBA Coins	601	Legal Tender	408
Arch City	106	Gerald Franz Rare Coins	1506	Liberty Seated Collector's Club (LSCC) Barber Coin Collectors' Society (BCCS)	507
Bob Hurst Numismatics	109	Glenn Schinke	1508	LTRC	506
Bob Jones / David Fouts	1703	Gold Standard Auctions	1204	Mark Richter	105
Buried Treasures	303	Gordy's Rare Coins	104	Mark Schwartz	1105
Butternut Coins	908	Harbor Coin Co., Inc.	1502	Marty Bourquin	1107
Capitol Coin	508	Herakles Numismatics	1606	Mid America Coins	604
Central States Numismatic Society (CSNS)	607	Heritage Auctions	401	Midwest Coinarama	703
Centralia Coin, Stamp, Etc.	1001	Hipps RC	102	MNS Exhibits	E01-E10
Chick McCormick	1806	IASAC - Intl Assoc of Silver Art Collectors	707, 708	Morton Grove Coins	111, 112, 113
Chris Hansen	101	ICOIN, INC	1605	Namchong Coin	805
Christopher's Rare Coins	1304	Iowa Great Lakes Coins, Inc	802	New Life Coins	1007, 1008
Coach's Coins	1402	J + J Coins	801	Nickel & Dime Coins	502
Coin Hunters Auction House & Coin Shoppe	1207	J + P Coins + Currency	1005	NICS Supplies	Lobby1
Coin, Cards, + Collectibles	1108	James Beach	1305	Nomad Numismatics / Meyer's Coins	1601
Coleman Foster	1301	Jay King	1306, 1307	Northeast Arkansas Coin	704
CW Coins & Bullion LLC	706	Jay Temchack	702	Pacifica Trading Company	1203
Darrell's Coins	1706	Jim Bush / Gary Burhop	1205	Paper Money Depot / Georgia	1505
David Carruthers	602	John Schuch RC	905	Precious Time and Metals	1501
David Johnson	1801	Jonathan K. Kern	705	Prospector's Gold & Gems	1807



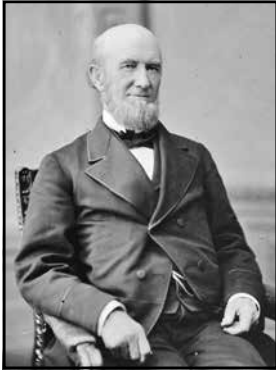
DBKI Numismatics	701	K & P Services	1201	Quad City Coin	1406
Dollar Bill's Rare Coin Gallery	808	KDS Numismatics	107, 108	Rarcoa, Inc. (In the Mail)	1106
Drovers Coins & Antiquities	904	Kearney Coin Center / Trader Ben	1208, 1308	Richard McPheeters Rare Coins	505
DRP Coins / Dave's Key Coins	1604	Ken Byrd Coins and Currency	1805	Richee Coin & Currency	606
Duke Numismatics	903	Kent "KD" Dickerson Currency	405, 406	River City Rarities	1202
Rob's Coins & Currency / Maverick Mint	1704	Steven Moore	804	Wholesale Numismatics LLC	906, 907
Royalty Coins Inc	807	Terry Bry	1603	Windy City Currency	1602
S & J International, LLC / Bunyard's Coin & Stamps	103	The Coin Collector	1101	WolfCreekCoin / SI Coin	1502
S. S. Central America	306, 306, 307	The Coin Shop	901	Woodsmith Numismatics	304, 305
Salt City Coin	608	The Gold and Silver Vault	1002	World Coins South FL	1004
Schaffer's	1702	Tom Reynolds	1303		
Scotsman Coin & Jewelry	301, 302	United States Paper Money	1302		
Standley / Waggoner	1504	Val J Webb Numismatics	1707		
Steve Musilli	501	Vaughn Rare Coins / Steven Erdmann	1607		
Steven Mileham	1404	West Coast Coins / <a href="http://www.WestCoastCoinsOregon.com">www.WestCoastCoinsOregon.com</a>	403, 503		

## 2024 MNS Show



# Eads Bridge

By  
*Robert Kravitz*



**James Buchanan Eads**

Completed in 1874 Eads Bridge is the oldest standing bridge on the Mississippi River. It was designed and built by James Buchanan Eads (May 23, 1820 – March 8, 1887), who was also the chief engineer. It is a combined road and railroad bridge.

The Eads Bridge was the first bridge across the Mississippi River at St. Louis. It was an amazing engineering accomplishment! The bridge was the first steel bridge and also the largest built at the time. Eads became rich by raising lost cargo from the bottom of the Mississippi River with equipment of his own invention. During the Civil War he became known for building many of the ironclad gunboats used by the Union Army. Eads built a total of seven armored gunboats.

The Eads Bridge had many firsts. It was the largest bridge and the first built almost entirely of steel. A three-arch steel truss bridge with a center span of 520 feet, and two side spans of 502 feet each, fixed to stone piers. Andrew Carnegie's Keystone Bridge Company supplied the chrome steel tubes. The hollow steel tubes made up the upper and lower chords or trusses. Since there were no standards for structural steel at the time, Eads pioneered new techniques and analysis to come up with solutions as stress problems with the steel came up. This meant Carnegie was forced to take back several shipments of steel and reroll them to meet Ead's ridged specifications.



Foundations for the piers had to be below the water level. They were the deepest underwater construction at the time, installed using pneumatic caissons. These piers had to be strong against the 12 feet per second current. They went down about 100 feet into the bedrock below the water's surface. He also came up with underwater pressurized chambers that made this extensive river bottom work possible.

Yet another first was the cantilevered method of constructing the arches to keep the waterway free for riverboat travel. Eads built an elaborate timber framing that hung from towers to support the steel during the erection of the steel arches.

A half million dollar loan to help pay for the bridge depended on the closing of the first span by September 19, 1873. It was very warm that September and the steel expanded. It was impossible to send a connecting tube as planned. Eads came up with a threaded wrought pipe which helped to shorten the last five inches to make the connections as needed! The first span was then completed on September 17th just in time!

The St. Louis Bridge (as it was called then) was completed in June 1874 at a cost of 10 million dollars. To prove it was safe, on June 14th they had an elephant stroll across the bridge, he had fun and made it across and back. Two weeks later 14 locomotives crossed the bridge.

The official opening was on July 4th, 1874. A crowd of 150,000 people gathered in 102° heat for the opening. There was a 100 gun salute, then General William T. Sherman drove in the final nail on the Bridge.



The Eads Bridge is pictured on a U.S. Stamp, the 1898 Two Dollar Trans Mississippi postage stamp.

In death Eads maintained his St. Louis connection by being buried in Bellefontaine Cemetery. He was 66. The bridge he built continues in use today as part of the highway system and the Metrolink rail system.

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About the Author:

Robert Kravitz is the author of the definitive book on Fractional Currency: *A Collector's Guide to Postage & Fractional Currency* (second edition). He is a dealer who attends most major shows and currently resides in St. Louis. Visit his website [www.robfrac.com](http://www.robfrac.com).

# Charlotte Mint

*By  
Joel Anderson*

Charlotte was the 1st branch mint for the United States. It was granted mint status in 1835 and operated from 1838 – 1861 in Charlotte, NC. The Charlotte mint produced gold coinage only. In 1861 it was operated by the Confederate States.

The first gold mine in the U.S. was the Reed Gold Mine. There were no mints in the southern states, so the miners had to send their gold dust to Philadelphia. The transportation was slow, expensive, and dangerous. This frustration led to private gold coining. In the spring of 1831, NC merchants and miners petitioned Congress for a branch mint in the region. Three years later the matter was investigated by the U.S. Treasury and determined the need for more federal coinage. The treasury approved an act on March 3, 1835 for gold coinage only, no copper or silver, in the town of Charlotte, in Mecklenburg County, in the state of NC. This Act also authorized the mints at Dahlonega, GA and New Orleans, LA, President Andrew Jackson signing it into law.

In November 1835, the Secretary of the Treasury authorized that a full 4 acres of land to be purchased for \$1,500.00 – it is now the 400 block of West Trade Street. A contract was awarded to Perry & Ligon, of Raleigh, NC to construct the Charlotte Mint for \$29,800.00.

Raw gold was processed and refined, and on March 28, 1838, the first \$5.00 gold half eagle was struck. Later that year, \$2.50 quarter eagles were minted, and in 1849 production started on a small gold dollar. All gold coinage from Charlotte has a “C” mint mark. The Charlotte Mint issued over \$5 million in gold coins over 9 years (1849-55, 1857, and 1859). Coins produced in 1850, '52, '55, and '59 are considered very rare.

In May 1861, NC seceded from the Union. The Confederacy seized the Charlotte, Dahlonega, and New Orleans mints. They continued operations until October, when it became clear that it was a futile effort. The mint was then converted into a hospital and military office space for the remainder of the war.

Federal troops used the offices for a few years, but in 1867, the U.S. government downgraded the building to an assay office due to a shortage of gold dust. In 1873 the General Assembly of NC petitioned Congress to reopen the mint, but the request was denied. The assay office operated until 1913. From 1917 – 1919, the Charlotte Women’s Club met in the building, and it also served as a Red Cross station during WWI.

In 1931 the building was to be demolished to make room for a post office expansion. Private citizens acquired the structure in 1933. The structure was relocated a few miles east of downtown Charlotte, and in 1936 the ‘mint’ was dedicated as the Mint Museum of Art – the first art museum in NC. On display are many items, along with a complete collection of all gold coins minted at the Charlotte Mint.



1838-C \$2½ Gold Coin,  
one of the first coins struck.



Charlotte Mint



1839-C \$5 Gold Coin



1859-C \$1 Gold Coin,  
one of the last coins  
struck.

# **Coin Rolling**

## **Can there still be high grade and unusual finds?**

*By  
Victor Baruzzini*

Ever since my father introduced me to US coins when I was about 10 years old some 50+ years ago, I've been hooked on the history and beauty of American coinage.

I remember my first find when my mother was paying for a couple of VG common Buffalo nickels at a local coins shop when I saw a Buffalo nickel in the handful of change she pulled from her purse. It was a 1921 Buffalo nickel in her hand! What are the chances?

I've been searching rolls from my bank since 1999 starting with rolls of the new state quarters.

So, are there high grade and unusual coins to be found?

Absolutely! If you have the patience a good jewelers loupe and a microscope.

It's a joyous moment in time when you come across a high grade or something unusual such as a RPM or die variety.

Results of the high grade finds?

A couple of years ago I submitted my first group of coins for professional grading that I thought could be MS-67 or higher. The result?

Two MS-67 1999 state quarters, one MS-67 1987-D cent and one MS-68 2022-D Kenndy half dollar. All found in bank rolls!

Unusual finds? Partial out-of-collar struck quarter, a BU red 1982-D cent struck 6 times in the collar, a 1998 Wide AM cent red uncirculated, numerous AU and UNC red cents from the late 1930s, 1940s and 1950s and finally, I recently found over 300 red BU cents from 1979, 1980 and 1981.

Bottom line? There are high grade and unusual coins to find if you take the time!

# THE COINS of CONSTANTIUS II

By  
*Chip Vaughn*



Constantius II was born in Sirmium (present day Serbia) August 7, 317 AD. He was Roman Emperor from 337 to 361. The second son of Constantine I (the Great) and Fausta, he ascended to the throne with his brothers Constantine II and Constans upon the death of their father. Ruling for 24 years, he was the longest reigning son of Constantine and therefore, arguably, the most successful.

Constantius was blamed for the slaughter of his cousins and uncles during the great massacre of 337 AD. Such a slaughter within the imperial family itself was unprecedented. The relatives were murdered because they were seen as challengers to the three brothers' ascensions to the throne. Most likely Constantius didn't order the executions, but neither did he make any attempt to block them. After the massacre, he was able to secure the most prestigious and wealthiest provinces in the east for himself, and perhaps more importantly; Constantinople – the new capital of the Roman Empire.



Constantius was the first Roman Emperor to publicly celebrate victory in a civil war. This was a completely unprecedented move by a Roman Emperor. Constantius' decision to do this underlines the fact that the ability to protect against internal threats was now a major prerequisite of being a successful emperor during the Later Roman Empire. This was important considering all the bloody civil wars and unrest that had previously threatened the empire. During his reign, he faced many varied internal threats and challengers (including Vetrician, Magnentius, Silvanus, Constantius Gallus and Julian II). His foreign policy of defense and containment received a lot of criticism, but it proved a lot more effective than an aggressive policy would have done and indeed it actually formed the precedent for the later overall strategy of the Roman Empire. Some historians criticize him for his paranoia. However, given all the schemes and plots against him, his suspicions seem highly justified – indeed if more Roman Emperors had been so 'paranoid' perhaps fewer would have fallen victim to palace coups and military rebellions.





In 340, Constantius' brothers clashed over the western provinces of the empire. The resulting conflict left Constantine II dead and Constans as ruler of the west... until he was overthrown and assassinated in 350 by the usurper Magnentius. Shortly afterwards, Constantius defeated Magnentius in battle after which Magnentius committed suicide, leaving Constantius as sole ruler of the empire. His subsequent military campaigns against Germanic tribes were very successful: he defeated the Alamanni in 354 and campaigned across the Danube against the Quadi and Sarmatians in 357. Unfortunately, the war in the east against Shapur II of Sasania continued with mixed results. In 360, Julian II challenged Constantius by claiming himself as emperor leading to war between the two. Ultimately, no battle was fought because Constantius became ill and died late in 361, though not before naming Julian as his successor.



Many millions of coins were minted in the name of Constantius II. There were at least 17 cities that minted coins throughout the empire during his reign. From 324-337 coins were minted for him as Caesar (Junior Emperor / Heir to the Throne) and from 337-361 as Augustus (Emperor). Roughly a million coins were minted every year in each one of the mint cities, so approximately 17 x 37 million coins = a whole lotta coins.



Some of his coins are very rare and expensive, but the majority are very affordable. The 1100th anniversary of the founding of Rome occurred during his reign. This event was celebrated with his FEL TEMP REPARATIO series (The Restoration of Happy Times, or as some say... “Happy Days Are Here Again”). There are many beautiful varieties and subvarieties in this series, and fortunately most of the types were minted in great quantities and many different denominations. So there are plenty of his coins available. The most common can easily be found for \$20 or less in Fine to Very Fine condition. Here are just a few of the coins from the FEL TEMP REPARATIO series:



If you’ve enjoyed finding out about Constantius II and his coins, you should check out the St Louis Ancient Coin Study Group Facebook page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1429818327056327>  
 ...and consider attending one of our meetings on the third Thursday of every month at Star Coins shop, 1 Garvey Parkway Suite 100, St. Charles, Mo. Meetings start at 7 pm, doors open @ 6 pm. *See you there!*

Online copies of this and all issues of the Missouri Journal of Numismatics maybe found on the Newman Numismatic Portal NNP (<https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/publisherdetail/510562>).

The NNP is an online reference that contains thousands of numismatic items. It is funded by the Eric P. Newman Education Society.

# Missouri Confederate Government Currency

By  
*Robert Kravitz*

All civil war issues of the Secessionist State government were authorized by a law signed by Governor Claiborne Fox Jackson on November 5, 1861. Even though by this time the secessionist state government had long since fled (from Jefferson City to Bonneville, Missouri) the notes were still dated Jefferson City. The legislature passed an act authorizing 10 million dollars of Defence Bond Notes.

All Notes / Bonds are uniface.

## First Series, Defence Bonds/Notes

Dated January 1st 1862, none are identified as bonds even though this issue was to pay 10% interest per annum.

Notes:

- 20 Dollar – floating allegorical figure
- 10 Dollar – commerce seated by the shore with sailing vessel in the distance
- 5 Dollar – commerce seated on bales of cotton
- 3 Dollar – portrait of Governor Claiborne Fox Jackson flanked by battle flags and cannons
- 2 Dollar – farmer attending to two horses
- 1 Dollar – portrait of Jefferson Davis flanked by battle flags and cannons

All these notes are hand signed.

The 20 Dollar, 10 Dollar and 5 Dollar notes are somewhat scarce. The 3 Dollar, 2 Dollar and 1 Dollar notes are somewhat common!



## The Second Series, Defence Bonds

This includes the 4.50 Dollar Note, the only note of this denomination out of all the confederate and obsolete notes known. The second series notes were clearly identified as being Missouri Defence. The first series just stated State of Missouri across the front of the note. Unlike the first series the second series notes gave no indication that interest was being paid.

Many experts believe these notes were never actually issued. Due to the fact that almost all the notes of this issue have no signature and are uncirculated.

“An account of the confederal guerilla attack on Plattsburg, Missouri on July 21, 1864 includes the comment that the guerillas (whose number included none other than one Jesse James) liberated \$10,000 in Missouri Defence Bonds that were found in the Court House.” (Shull) So some of the few signed Defence Bonds could have been signed by Jesse James not using his real name. Eric Newman had one of these signed bonds. He said that it could be one of those notes! No way to know for sure. All of these Defence Bonds have the Missouri State Seal on them.

Notes:

- 4.50 Dollar – three maidens representing commerce, prosperity and navigation
- 4 Dollar – view of two steamboats on the river
- 3 Dollar – floating allegorical figure over an ocean representing prosperity and a sailing ship way in the distance
- 1 Dollar – herd of cattle grazing at a steam boat far off in the distance



## Bibliography

Criswell, Grover C, “Confederate and Southern States Currency”, 1992  
 Shull, Hugh, “A Guide Book of Southern States Currency”, 2007

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## About the Author:

Robert Kravitz is the author of the definitive book on Fractional Currency: A Collector's Guide to Postage & Fractional Currency (second edition). He is a dealer who attends most major shows and currently resides in St. Louis. Visit his website [www.robsfractional.com](http://www.robsfractional.com).

# Always Follow Good Advice!

By  
*C. Joseph Sutter*

The year I want to step back into the past and revise a practice that was enjoyed by many collectors in the fifties and sixties: roll collecting.

Collectors would go down to their local bank and purchase, at cost, rolls of currently issued coinage. This did not require a large investment, in fact no investment at all was required since you were paying face value for the coins. You could determine what series you wanted to collect and only purchase those rolls. And the time required was minimal since once you made your purchase, it would be another year before you had to make another. The other big benefit was that you were not only building one set of the type you were building fifty, in the case of Lincoln cents or forty, for Washington quarters. And it only cost fifty cents a year for cents or ten dollars for quarters. Of course some people got greedy and purchased multiple rolls of the same date and mint, but that was their personal preference.

The monetary benefit of this was immense and required no planning! Since you were buying from the bank when the coins were freshly issued, you obtained both rare and common issues because at the time it was not known what would be rare and what would be common. Think of that roll of dimes you could have obtained, or rather your mother could have obtained, in Denver back in 1916. Actually, they were not issued until early 1917, but let's not let a tiny thing like "facts" get in the way of this great argument.

Have you ever said "I wish I had bought that coin when I was younger and could have gotten it at face value?" Or "I wish I had a time machine so I could go back and buy that coin at face value". Of course you have, we all have! With this method a future you will be thanking current you since you bought a roll of them.

To illustrate my point let's look at a major publication from the past "How To Make Profits With U.S. Quarter Dollars" by Robert Svensson. Mr. Svensson was with Numismatic Research Publications of Hollywood, Ca and wrote many profit related guides in the area of numismatics during the 1960s. My personal issue is post marked 1970.

This publication addresses rolls of U.S. Quarters from 1946 through 1964. It gives the Bid (dealer buy price) and Ask (dealer sell price) prices for each date and mint combination. Since each roll contains 40 coins with a face value of \$10.00 it is easy to calculate the profit experienced by the lucky holders of the coins at the publication date.

Using just the Bid price the profit can be seen:

Date / Mint	Bid	Face	Profit
1946-P	\$27.50	\$10.00	\$17.50
1946-D	\$82.00	\$10.00	\$72.00
1953-S	\$35.00	\$10.00	\$25.00
1959-P	\$11.75	\$10.00	\$ 1.75
1963-P	\$10.50	\$10.00	\$ .50

As you can see these are pretty substantial returns for just going to the bank, buying a roll of quarters and putting them in a drawer.

Mr. Svensson shows that he is offering sound unbiased advice by also giving the values for 1946-S and 1955-S as “not minted”. He also includes the two 1964 issues with no prices given, probably because they did not yet have a premium over face value.

So how can today’s collector take advantage of this strategy? Do I think you can go to the bank and buy rolls and put them away for future profits? No way! Why not? Production volume. Just looking at the mintages tell you that the U.S. Mint makes a LOT of quarters today. In 1946 Denver made nine million for the whole year. In 2022 Denver made 258 million of just the Maya Angelou quarter, one of five different quarter designs.

However, there is another option. I just received in the mail a catalog from an east coast dealer. This catalog offers rolls of desirable coin series. Just like back in the sixties I can obtain rolls of quarters and put them in a drawer. I can get these coins without even leaving my house, no trips to the bank required. Travel expenses are avoided since I do not have to travel if I want coins from a Mint not available in my area. Of course, the price is slightly above face value, \$259.50 for a roll of Washington quarters, \$289.50 if I want Barbers. The coins are not exactly unused either, the key word here is circulated. Mr. Svensson recommended Uncirculated coins in top of BU condition. But of course he did not sell the coins, where this dealer is offering to sell the coins in the catalog.

As you can see roll collecting is the way to go. Mr. Svensson felt that the practice of “investing and speculating in Brilliant Uncirculated rolls of U.S. coins” is not “considered coin collecting in any sense of the word”, I am more kind. Of course hoarding coins through buying rolls is coin collecting. Accumulate, I mean collect, any way you desire.

Full disclosure: based on the advice received in Mr. Svensson’s publication, the author practiced this roll investment theory with one slight deviation, he accumulated circulated rolls. Using a small investment budget, only Lincoln cents were pursued, come on now, how much money does a teenager have? This strategy has dramatically paid off. With only a 50 cent investment for each roll, offers of returns of fifty to one hundred percent have been received. Of course these are for the pre-1959 cents with the Wheat reverse and the author was accumulating in the sixties, so his return was not as large as Mr. Svensson’s, however assuming the author purchased one million rolls, his return could have been huge! While his actual purchase was slightly smaller than one million and he still has the cents taking up space in a drawer, his potential return could have been astronomical. Enough to get a real job and not rely on the pittance he receives writing for this Journal

# Queen Medb (Maeve)

## 1st Century C.E.

By  
*Kathy Skelton*

Real? Myth? Legend?

Presuming that Medb was real, her father was Eochaid Feidleach, High King of Ireland, Former King of Connacht. Her mother was Crochen/Cruachu Crobh-Derb and Medb had five sisters and four brothers. Medb had three husbands, numerous partners, and nine children.

Myth: she is associated with the sovereignty goddess Medb Lethderg, the goddess of Tara, and she is also linked with the goddess Morrigan. She may be the inspiration for the fairy queen found in Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*.

In legend: In Old Irish, Medb's name is believed to come from Medu or Medua (mead, or intoxicating). Her name was Anglicized to Maeve.

The story: Irish history has her best known for the *Tain Bo Cualilnge* (The Cattle Raid of Cooley), where she stole Ulster's prize stud bull. Medb is described as so fair haired and beautiful, that if men saw her, they were robbed of two-thirds of their valor.

Eochaid married Medb off to Conchobar mac Nessa, the king of Ulster. She had her first son, Glaisne, but the marriage was bad, so she left. Eochaid then gave Conchobar Medb's sister, Clothru, but Medb murdered her sister while she was pregnant, but Furbaide was born by posthumous caesarian section.

Eochaid removed the then-king of Connacht, Tinni mac Conri, and put Medb in his place. However, Tinni regained a share of the throne when Medb and he became lovers. After an assembly at Tara, Conchobar (ex-husband) raped Medb and war began between the High King and Ulster. Tinni challenged Conchobar and lost. Eochaid Dala of the Fir Domnann, who had been Tinni's rival for the kingship, protected the Connacht army, and became Medb's next husband and king of Connacht. Medb demanded her husband satisfy three criteria—that he be without fear, meanness, or jealousy. The last was particularly important, as she had many lovers. While married to Dala, she took Ailill mac Máta, chief of her bodyguard, as her lover. Eochaid discovered the affair, challenged Ailill to single combat, and lost. Ailill then married Medb and became king of Connacht.

Medb and Ailill had seven sons and one daughter. Medb insisted that she be equal in wealth with her husband, and started the Cattle Raid of Cooley. She raised an army with a group of Ulster exiles, which included Fergus mac Roich, former king of Ulster (and future lover of Medb). This did not go well. In a final battle she won the bull, but Ulster's bull fought Ailill's bull, and after killing him, died of his wounds, so neither Medb or Ailill had a prize bull.

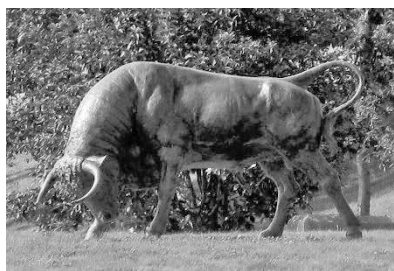
Out of jealousy for his affair with Medb, Ailill had Fergus killed. In his old age, after Conchobar's death, the Ulster hero Conall Cernach came to stay with Ailill and Medb. Medb tasked him to keep an eye on Ailill, who was seeing other women. Medb ordered Conall to kill him, which he was happy to do in revenge for Fergus.

In her later years, Medb often went to bathe in a pool on Inchcleraun, an island on Lough Ree, near Knockcroghery. Furbaide sought revenge for the death of his mother, Clothru. The next time he saw Medb bathing he killed her with a sling and a piece of cheese. She was succeeded to the throne of Connacht by her son Maine Athramail.

According to legend, Medb is buried in Miosgán Médhbh, a 40-foot (12 m) high stone cairn on the summit of Knocknarea in County Sligo. Supposedly, she is buried upright facing her enemies in Ulster. Her home in Rathcroghan, County Roscommon is also a potential burial site, with a long low slab named 'Misgaun Medb' being given as the most likely location.

Wealth in Eire was defined mostly by cattle. The more cattle you had, the wealthier you were. The brown bull of Cooley, Donn Cuailnge, was considered the most valuable specimen of bulls.

Donn Cuailnge statue on the Cooley Peninsula.



During the time of her reign, visitors to Ireland may have used ring money and Roman coinage for trade, as visitors had no cattle.

Some of the earliest money, ring money, was cast in gold and bronze, the more knobs on the ring the more it was worth. These were worn on clothing or tied together with leather or string. Distribution is known from Ireland to the Danube.



Celtic Gaul, cast.  
9.4 gr, 20 mm diameter.



## Celtic Money Rings



23, 18, 17 mm  
450 BC – 100 AD



Celtic bronze ring  
with 5 nodules

4.9 gr.  
24 mm

Bronze, 3 knobs



5.66 gr  
32 mm

Since we can only date Queen Medb's reign to around 50 BCE – 50 CE, Roman coinage may have been included. These would have been the coins of Augustus Caesar, Caligula, Marcus Agrippa, and Antonia Augusta.

Augustus Caesar, the first Roman emperor ruled from 27 BCE – 14 CE. His coinage was made by the Mint of Philippi in Macedonia. Augustus is facing right on the obverse, and on the reverse, the priest or colonist with a plow alludes to the founding of a new colony. The plow breaking ground symbolizes the driving back of the wilderness and domesticating the land.



4.38 gr.  
18 mm



3.68 gr.

20 mm

Caligula, with Agrippina, ruled from 37 – 41 AD. His coinage was made in bronze in Lydia. On the obverse, his head is also facing right, while on the reverse, Agrippina is seated on a chair holding a scepter and cornucopia.



9.94 gr

28 mm

Marcus Agrippa, died 12 BCE, was a trusted general and son-in-law of Augustus. This coin was struck under Caligula from 37 – 41 CE. His head is facing left wearing a rostral crown. On the obverse, Neptune is draped with a cloak over both arms, holding a small dolphin in the right hand and a trident in the left.



11.56 gr

28 mm

Antonia Augusta ruled from 41-45 CE, she was the daughter of Mark Antony and Octavia, sister-in-law of Tiberius, and great-grandmother of Nero. Her coins were minted in Gaul or Hispania.

Real or not, her story still stays with the Irish.

# Colonial Massachusetts Cents and Their Evanson Restrikes

By  
Charles Calkins



Massachusetts has produced coinage since the early days of the American colonies. Initially, Native American wampum was allowed for payment – the Massachusetts General Court had issued an exchange rate for wampum in 1637 (though banned it as legal tender in 1661), but by 1651 demand for coinage was strong enough that by 1652, taking advantage of England’s distraction with its Civil War, issued its own coinage as ordered by the Court. The New England, Willow Tree, Oak Tree and Pine Tree coinage followed through the second half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. A century later, in 1776 several unofficial coppers were issued, but in 1786 coinage was once again to be produced by Court order pursuant to two resolutions of the Continental Congress.

On July 6, 1785, the Continental Congress resolved “That the money unit of the United States of America be one dollar,” “that the smallest coin be of copper, of which 200 shall pass for one dollar” and “that the several pieces shall increase in decimal ratio.” [1] The next year, on August 8, 1786, the monetary system was further clarified and various denominations and weights were outlined including for the production of two copper coins where “one equal to the one hundredth part of the federal dollar, to be called *a cent*: And one equal to the two-hundredth part of the federal dollar to be called *A half cent*” and “that two pounds and a quarter avoirdupois weight of copper, shall constitute one hundred cents.” [2, italics in original] In other words, weights of 157.5 grains (10.21 g) and 78.75 grains (5.10 g), respectively. [3]

Only two months after the second Congressional Congress order, on October 17, 1786 the Massachusetts General Court passed “An Act for Establishing a Mint for the Coinage of Gold, Silver and Copper” which stated that “...there shall be a Mint erected within this Commonwealth... *And it be further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, that there shall be a quantity of Copper Coin struck, equal to the amount of *seventy thousand Dollars* in pieces the two different

denominations mentioned in the said resolve, and in convenient proportions; one of which to have the name *Cent* stamped in the Center thereof, and the other *Half Cent*, with such inscriptions or devices as the Governor with the advice of Council, may think proper; and the said Coin, when struck, shall be received in all payments in this Commonwealth.” [4, italics in original] As such, they were the first American coins to have the denomination of “cent.” [5]

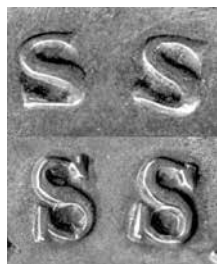


The obverse was derived from the Massachusetts state seal, dating back to the seal of the Massachusetts Bay Colony issued in 1629 [6], a Native American holding a bow in one hand and arrow in the other with a star above. The reverse features an eagle with wings spread, holding arrows in the left talon and an olive branch in the right talon, with CENT or HALF CENT on a shield on the breast. MASSACHUSETTS and the date (1787 or 1788) encircle the eagle. The Cent was about 29 mm in

diameter and the Half Cent 24 mm.

Incidentally, irrespective of weight they ultimately were exchanged at less than face value due to circulating at the same rate as Connecticut coppers with eighteen cent-size coins to a shilling. Six shillings to a Spanish dollar equates to 108 cents. [6]

In less than three years after the original act production ended as it was no longer economical to produce them. The original plan to produce coinage estimated a nearly doubling return on the initial investment needed to acquire copper, minting machinery and associated goods – that the face value of the coins produced would outweigh the cost nearly 2 to 1. Instead, it turned out to be the opposite, with expenses overlooked such as the creation of dies, leading to a net overall loss. Thus, the Massachusetts legislature closed the mint on November 17, 1788, and coining officially stopped on January 23, 1789 when the mint ran out of copper. [5]



The first dies for these coins were produced by Joseph Callender who had apprenticed at Paul Revere’s shop. His fee of 24 shillings per die was considered too high so the contract was later given to Jacob Perkins who charged one percent of the coins struck using his dies. He eventually produced 26 dies for a cost of about 3 shillings per die. Callender’s dies can be distinguished from Perkins’ as Callender used open Ss (top) while Perkins used ones that were more rounded and almost closed

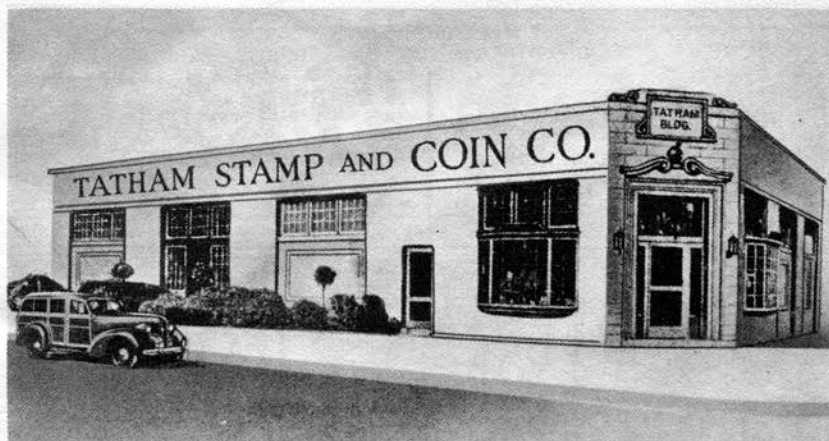
(bottom). [6] (Details of mintage figures and die pairings are presented at the end of this article.)

160 years later enter Henry Evanson.

Howard Edward Macintosh and Henry Evanson, die sinker, were partners in the Tatham Stamp and Coin Company in Springfield, Massachusetts. Evanson purchased the business upon the death of Macintosh in 1958, though quickly sold the business and name but kept much of the stock and started Spruceland Stamp and Coin in 1960. [7] Evanson joined the ANA in 1929 and was already dealing in coins during the Depression. For example, in 1933 he purchased 1,500 uncirculated 1909-S VDB cents for twenty-five cents each and sold them for thirty-five cents each as he recalled in a video interview in 1986. [8]



From the late 1920s until the late 1950s Tatham's business appears to have thrived. For example, in 1941 had more than 30 employees and had moved to an over 4,000 square foot facility. [9]



New Home of Tatham Stamp & Coin Co. at 85 Oakland Street, Springfield, Mass.

Incidentally, as of this writing Google Maps shows the building still exists but is now divided into a barber shop and a pharmacy.



Tatham sold coins, paper money, stamps and Christmas seals via postal mail “on approval” where the recipient would pay for what they wished to keep and returned the rest.

[10] In addition to modern coins and notes for sale, their mail order catalog also listed some ancient and world coins, tokens, coin supplies such as boxes, folders and other holders, as well as even a coin pin and pendant. [9] They also produced publications such as the *Banker’s Coin Book* which ran for multiple editions listing coin prices that they would pay for coins sent to them. These are definitely representative of a bygone era – values of a 1793 chain cent range from \$3-\$6, an 1877 Indian cent from \$0.40-\$1.00, an 1895 Morgan dollar from \$1.50-\$2.50, and a New England shilling a whopping \$10-\$30. [11]



In addition to sales of original items, Tatham also produced replicas of various coins where the originals would be (relatively) expensive to own. A 1652-dated Massachusetts Pine Tree Shilling copy was one, selling for \$1 where originals sold for “\$40 to \$100 each” and which they referred to as a “facsimile specimen.” [12]



informational sheet describing its history.

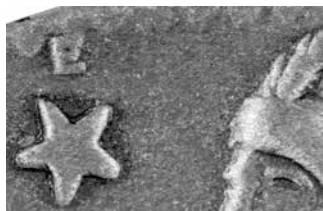
They also produced California and Alaskan fractional gold pieces such as an 1862 Alaskan “Too Wah” token struck in gilt brass instead of fully gold which appears in their 1941 catalog. As with their other by-mail offerings they were provided in a special envelope along with an



as restrikes. [13] “Tatham was also famous (or infamous depending on your outlook) for its inexpensive restrikes of Colonial and other numismatic items, and collecting kits, reference booklets, and supplies under its house brand TASCO label.” [14]

These replicas were lighter and made from worn dies as compared to originals and were referred to





Specifically regarding Colonial restrikes, after World War II Evanston produced replicas of the colonial Massachusetts Half Cent and Cent using new dies (so technically not a restrike since the original dies were not used though they are often considered as such). Although still minted prior to the Hobby Protection Act

of 1973, these did have a small indication that they were not original – an “E” above the star to the left of the head of the Native American that is present on coins of both denominations.

This was not enough to dissuade the unscrupulous from attempting to pass these as the genuine article by removing the “E” however. Eric Newman himself identified one in 1977 as a coin sent to him for evaluation. His response is literally a “Dear John” letter conveying bad news. [15]

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

*6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri*

December 5, 1977

Mr. John Hunter  
ANACS  
818 North Cascade  
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Dear John:

E-7976-A 1788 Mass.  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent. This is an Evanston copy with the E above the star on the obverse ground off along with the top of the star. It has been recolored. Forgery.

There are other noteworthy differences than just the presence of the “E” although that is most distinctive. One commenter states “For anyone familiar with the originals they are obvious copies with squared off edges and the Indian’s face too finely detailed among distinctions that can be easily described” [16] and another that the Cents “were not intended to deceive collectors as their dies seem to be not particularly faithful imitations of Ryder 1-D.” [17] According to Vlack and Ryder, Ryder 1-D is one of the most common die pairings. [18, 19] If it was comparatively more easily obtainable it makes sense it served as a prototype for Evanston.

Replica Half Cents and Cents in copper were struck in some quantity as it has been noted that numismatist Tony Carlotto had a partial tube of Half Cents and about three tubes of Cents in the early 1980s [20] and copper strikes appear in auctions from time to time such as on eBay and elsewhere. Evanston also struck both denominations in several other metals and finishes in very limited quantities where, according to him, only three complete sets can be built. These sets have appeared in Stacks-Bowers and eBay auctions [21, 22, 23, 24], and the author was lucky enough to acquire a nearly complete set (only one coin short).

In addition to copper, Evanson struck in five other metals, each with two types of surfaces. A full set thus consists of twenty six coins (13 for each denomination) as follows [25]:

Metal	Half Cent Weight	Cent Weight	Surfaces
aluminum	2.18 g	3.49 g	polished, oxidized
nickel	6.84 g	10.74 g	polished, oxidized
rose gold plate	6.86 g	10.86 g	polished, oxidized
bronze	7.04 g	11.11 g	polished, oxidized
copper	7.22 g	11.37 g	regular, polished, oxidized
sterling silver	8.43 g	13.21 g	polished, oxidized

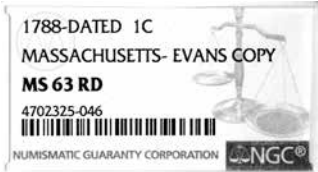
Interestingly, there is more copper in these restrikes than in the original issues (5.10 g and 10.21 g as noted previously).



of the date.

The various metals can be distinguished by weight and appearance – the oxidized surfaces have a distinctly matte appearance while the polished ones are somewhat reflective – but additionally the sterling silver strikes for both denominations (as shown at the beginning of this article) are not only the heaviest in the group but have a small S stamped below the arrow feathers and to the right

A common misconception when these restrikes are identified is to attribute them to “Evans” rather than Evanson. The original source of the error may be Breen where catalog numbers 972 (Cent) and 973 (Half Cent) have the note “Specimens (usually red UNC.) with small E next to star are copies struck after WW II by the Springfield, Mass. coin dealer Henry Evans.” [26] This error continues to propagate such as on to this NGC slab label in the author’s collection.



While Breen does acknowledge the existence of these restrikes in copper no mention is made of the alternate compositions. 972 and 973, however, are noted to be from Perkins dies.

Some editions of the Redbook (Yeoman’s *A Guide Book of United States Coins*) mention the existence of these restrikes. The 6<sup>th</sup> (1953-1954) edition was the first to acknowledge that replicas of some colonial coins exist with a note on page 13 at the start of the coinage listings that reads “\* Star Indicates That Facsimiles Exist. Copies of certain early American issues were made to provide facsimiles of rare issues that would otherwise be unobtainable. A star has been placed adjacent to such early American coins or tokens, together with the fabricator’s name for which corresponding copies are known.” The 16<sup>th</sup> (1963) edition was the first to note specifically that replicas of the



Massachusetts 1788 Half Cent and Cent exist, and they are tagged with “\*Evanson” below their photographs, though no details such as mintages or metals for the replicas are provided. This persists through the 28<sup>th</sup> (1975) edition, but the 29<sup>th</sup> (1976) edition has just a star and “Evanson” is no longer given, and this continues to the 38<sup>th</sup> (1985) edition. The 39<sup>th</sup> (1986) edition removed the star from the 1788 issues, and while the note indicating replicas exist had remained substantially the same since the 6<sup>th</sup> edition, the 58<sup>th</sup> (2005) edition was the last in which it appeared, with it no longer present in the 59<sup>th</sup> (2006).

11	C, E, F	R <sup>6</sup>	To top of N
12	H, I, K, M	R <sup>2</sup>	height of
13	N		do.
14	J	R <sup>6</sup>	do.
15	M	R <sup>6</sup>	do.

*Sold to Am. Num. Soc. by N.J.*

16 M R<sup>6</sup> W. P. K.

17 M R<sup>6</sup> 1/2 N

18 M R<sup>6</sup> 3/4 N

As for the original coins, the University of Notre Dame summarizes Ryder’s work [27] as follows. The Newman Numismatic Portal contains a scan of Ryder’s article which has been heavily annotated by Q. David Bowers in the 1950s. [19] Several of the obverse die numbers, reverse die letters and pairings that are enumerated by the University are not in Ryder’s original work but are annotations by Bowers. The reverse is also true – for example,

while obverse dies 15, 16 and 17 in the annotation for the 1788 Cent are included in the University summary, both obverse die 18 and reverse die M in the annotation are not noted by Notre Dame. Perhaps they were deemed not to be valid after further inspection in the intervening decades since their authorship.

1787 Half Cent: 61,500-79,500 estimated minted by six obverse dies (1-6) and four reverse dies (A-D) in 9 combinations, all by Callender.

1787 Cent: 90,900-93,000 estimated minted by five obverse dies (with one die recut for a total of 6 varieties: 2a, 2b, 3, 4, 6 and 8) and seven reverse dies (A, C-G and J) in 12 combinations, all by Callender. Reverse A features the “horned eagle” die break and 2a-F has the arrows and olive branch transposed. 1-B and 7-H are considered counterfeits.

1788 Half Cent: 35,500-38,500 estimated minted by one obverse die (1) and two reverse dies (A and B) in two combinations, all by Perkins.

1788 Cent: 99,500 estimated minted by six obverse dies (1-4, 8 and 11) and seven reverse dies (A-G) by Perkins and 109,500 estimated minted by ten obverse dies (5-7, 9, 10, 12, 13 and 15-17) and seven reverse dies (H, I and K-O) by Callender. 25 legitimate combinations are known with 14-J considered counterfeit.

In total, the University calculates a value of 500-575 Spanish milled dollars was minted in 100,000-115,000 Half Cents and 2,920-3,000 Spanish dollars in 292,000-300,000 Cents yielding about 3,500 Spanish dollars in 400,000 coins across 48 die pairings.

The 2023 edition of the Redbook recognizes a single variety of the 1787 Half Cent, three varieties of the 1787 Cent (arrows in the right talon [rare], arrows in the left talon, and the “horned eagle” die break variety), a single variety of the 1788 Half Cent, and two varieties of the 1788 Cent (whether or not a period is present after MASSACHUSETTS). [28]

Breen lists 15 varieties, though a number of Breen’s entries equate to multiple Ryder varieties. For 1787 Cents: Breen 959 = Ryder 2a-F (“transposed arrows”); 960 = 2b-A; 961 = 3-G; 962 = 6-G, 2b-G, 8-G; 963 = same as 962 but with a doubled exergue line; 968 = 1-B; 969 = 5-I, 7-H. For 1787 Half Cents: 964 = 1-D, 6-D; 965 = 7-D; 966 = 2-A, 3-A, 5-A, 6-A; 967 = 4-B, 4-C. For 1788 Cents: 970 = 12 unspecified varieties; 971 = 6-N, 13-N; 972 = 1-D, 2-A, 3-A, 4-B, 4-C, 4-D, 5-A, 6-A, 6-D. For 1788 Half Cents: 973 = 1-A, 1-B. [26]

The Massachusetts Half Cent and Cent are historically noteworthy coins, and their Evanson replicas are an interesting supplement to a collection of them, though it is unfortunate that full details as to the production of the replicas is not evident. Hopefully further research can indicate precisely when and where they were minted, and why they were chosen over other coinage issues to copy.

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[1] *July 6, 1785*. Journals of the Continental Congress, 1774-1789.

[https://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/hlaw:@field\(DOCID+@lit\(jc0295\)\)](https://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/hlaw:@field(DOCID+@lit(jc0295))):

[2] *August 8, 1786*. Journals of the Continental Congress, 1774-1789.

[https://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/hlaw:@field\(DOCID+@lit\(jc0317\)\)](https://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/hlaw:@field(DOCID+@lit(jc0317)))

[3] 1 pound avoirdupois is 7,000 grains, so 2.25 pounds is 15,750 grains.

[4] *1786 Chap. 0032 An Act For Establishing A Mint For The Coinage Of Gold, Silver, And Copper*. Digital Commonwealth Massachusetts Collections Online

<https://www.digitalcommonwealth.org/search/commonwealth-oai:rx913v08k>

[5] *Did You Know That The Massachusetts Coppers of 1787-1788 Were The First American Coins To Bear the Denomination “Cent”?*

<https://stacksbowers.com/did-you-know-that-the-massachusetts-coppers-of-1787-1788-were-the-first-american-coins-to-bear-the-denomination-cent/>

[6] *Massachusetts Coppers 1787-1788: Introduction*. The Coins of Colonial and Early America, University of Notre Dame Department of Special Collections.

<https://coins.nd.edu/colcoin/colcoinintros/MA-Copper.intro.html>

[7] *1788 Massachusetts 1¢ Copper (Tatham Stamp Co.) Evanson Restrike (1940's) Scarce*

<https://www.worthpoint.com/worthopedia/1788-massachusetts-copper-tatham-1790695072>

[8] *ANA Numismatic Personality: Henry Evanson*, David Lisot Video Library (1986). <https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/book/557352>

[9] *14<sup>th</sup> ed. Coin Collector's Annual Catalog*. Tatham Stamp and Coin Co., Springfield Mass., 1941. [If the 14<sup>th</sup> edition is 1941, the 1<sup>st</sup> edition was presumably 1927.]

[10] *The Tatham Stamp and Coin Company and Dr. Halls TB/Christmas Seals* <https://koreastampsociety.org/2021/11/13/the-tatham-stamp-and-coin-company-and-dr-halls-tb-christmas-seals/>

[11] *Banker's Coin Book*, 8<sup>th</sup> ed. Tatham Stamp and Coin Co., Springfield Mass.

[12] *1652 Mass. Pine Tree Token in Tatham Stamp & Coin Envelope* <https://www.worthpoint.com/worthopedia/1652-mass-pine-tree-token-tatham-2051698220>

[13] *Howard Edward Macintosh (1911-1958) – Famous or Infamous?* <https://forums.collectors.com/discussion/1043695/howard-edward-macintosh-1911-1958-famous-or-infamous>

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[15] Newman. *Correspondence and ephemera relating to the American Numismatic Association Certification Service*. American Numismatic Association Certification Services, 1977 <https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/book/518890>, pdf page 38

[16] *#614 Pair of "1788" (1958) Evanson Copy Massachusetts Cents*. Scott Barnes Sale of U.S. Colonial Coins <https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/auctionlots?AucCold=512193&AuctionId=532751&page=97>

[17] *Massachusetts Cents and Half Cents in the Collection of the American Numismatic Society*. The Colonial Newsletter, no. 149, p 34. <https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/book/514013>

- [18] Vlack rarity scale for Massachusetts half cents and cents.  
<https://coins.nd.edu/colcoin/ColCoinImages/MA-Copper/Vlack-MArarity.jpg>
- [19] Ryder. *The Copper Coinage of Massachusetts*. American Journal of Numismatics, 1919: Vol. 53, Part I: State coinage of Connecticut, Vermont and Massachusetts <https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/book/562547>
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<https://auctions.stacksbowers.com/lots/view/3-TWOUS/a-substantial-collection-of-1788-massachusetts-cent-and-half-cent-struck-copies-made-by-henry-evanson-about-as-made>
- [23] *13 Evanson Restrikes Massachusetts Half Cent Colonial Coin All Compositions* <https://www.ebay.com/itm/176013310391>
- [24] *12 Evanson Restrikes Massachusetts Cent Colonial Coin All Compositions* <https://www.ebay.com/itm/186290965556>
- [25] Average of measurements of examples with the different finishes rounded to hundredths.
- [26] Breen. *Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins*. Doubleday, 1988.
- [27] Ryder. *The Copper Coinage of Massachusetts in The State Coinages of New England* NY:ANS, 1920 as summarized in [6]
- [28] Yeoman. *A Guide Book of United States Coins, Mega Red, 9<sup>th</sup> ed.* Whitman Publishing, LLC, 2023.

# PERFECT U. S. MINT REJECTS

## Or

### Mint Errors, the Beautiful Coins, (What Can Happen – Will Happen)

## Or

### MINT ERRORS – To Die For!

### Oh, if I was just a millionaire.

By  
*Dave Price, MNS LM-1980*

I started collecting error and variety coins in 1957 at the age of 10. Searching rolls and pocket change from 1955 to 1966. Back when all the silver looking coins were silver, and I was a kid in heaven's delight. Die cracks; die chips; and die breaks, almost every coin had a filled top and/or bottom of the 'B', or 'R'; of LIBERTY, something on the date, or a crack from head to rim. Peanut butter jars could fill up quickly.

After getting Frank Spadone's book, "Major Variety & Oddity Guide, 1962, 1st edition, the hunt was on for major mint errors. I learned everything I could about the minting process and which machine caused what kind of error.

Back in 1957 I think my allowance was \$5.00 a week. Not much by today's standard, but all is relevant. I soon learned the half and dollar coins were too rich for my blood. You save up for what you want to buy.

The following prices are taken from a 1972 error dealer's price list.

#### **DIE ERRORS**

RE-CUT OR RE-ENGRAVED LETTERING, ETC.		MINOR DOUBLED DIE ERRORS		MAJOR DOUBLED DIE	
		2024		2024	
Cents	\$ .10 - 1.00	1858/7	60,000	.10 - 5.00	1955 DDO 375,000
Nickels	.15 - 1.25	1918/7-D	45,000	.20 - 10.00	
Dimes	.30 - 2.00	1942/1	50,000	.20 - 15.00	
Quarters	.50 - 2.00	1918/7-D	260,000	.50 - 25.00	1934 DDR 2,500
Half Dollars	1.00 - 3.00	1855/4	25,000	1.00 - 20.00	
Dollars (Clad)	2.00 - 5.00	1887/6	18,000	2.00 - 25.00	1804 2,750,000

## **PLANCHET ERRORS**

MINOR LAMINATIONS			SPLIT PLANCHET SPLIT B4 STRIKING	
		2024		2024
Cents	\$ .05 - .15	.10/90	3 - 4	50/1,500
Nickels	.10 - .20	.27/125	8 - 10	90/750
Dimes	.15 - .25	.45/140	15 - 20	120/850
Quarters	.45 - .75	5.00/175	30 - 40	1,300
Half Dollars	1.00 - 1.50	30.00/500	100 - 150	2,500
Dollars (Clad)	2.00 - 4.00	100/1,000	120 - 200	n/a

## **STRIKING ERRORS**

### OFF CENTER!

UNDATED			DATED	
		2024		2024
Cents	\$ 2.25 - 5.50	20/400	3 - 7	30/770
Nickels	6.50 - 8.	60/2,000	7.50 - 11	15/3,500
Dimes	7.50 - 9.	35/470	8.50 - 12	35/500
Quarters	10 - 45.	55/2,500	15 - 60	50/6,000
Half Dollars	45 - 100	165/5,800	80 - 150	100/8,500
Dollars (Clad)	200 - 300	500/12,950	250 - 400	100/1,550

I'm going to stop here before I reproduce his complete catalogue. All 74 pages.

In 1973, I started studying Lincoln cents, to be able to tell what year a non-dated coin (off center or clip) was minted. (Not a bad hint for someone really interested in learning all he or she can about their error coins.)

The following coins were taken from Sullivan Numismatics, Inc., and we thank them for the use of their photos. Support your local error dealers.

(Author's Note): o/c = off center; cc = curved clip; K = clock position; Ag = silver.

25c, 1998-D,  
10% o/c @ K-12:00  
10% cc @ K-10:00  
5% cc @ K-4:00  
AU-58, \$275.

\$1, ND, SBA,  
70% o/c @ K-5:00  
MS-65, \$600.

10c, 1916-S,  
10% o/c @ K-1:00  
MS-61FB, \$1,000.



\$1, 1999, SBA  
 10% o/c @ K-12:00  
 30% cc @ K-9:00  
 MS-65, \$1,000.



5c, ND, Shield  
 20% o/c @ K-4:00  
 Lam K-6:00  
 AU-55, \$1,400.



5c, 2004-P  
 30% o/c @ K-7:00  
 25% straight clip @ K1:30  
 MS-62, \$1,500.



25c, 1999-D, Wash., Del.  
 Outside corner clip  
 Wt.:3.9g  
 Au, \$2,000.



50c, ND, (1964)  
 50c die struck a  
 10c Ag. T-1 blank  
 MS-63, \$3,500.



Kenn., Ag. \$1, 1977-D, Ike  
 45% o/c @ K-12:00  
 MS-65, \$4,500.



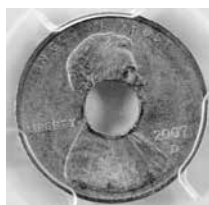
\$1, 1979-S, SBA  
 \$1 die struck a  
 1c Cu. 3.1g planchet  
 MS-64R, \$5,000.



50c, ND, Franklin, Ag.  
 50c die struck a  
 25c Ag. planchet &  
 45% o/c @ K-8:00  
 AU-58, \$5,750.



1c, 2007-D  
 1c die struck a  
 steel washer, 2.5g  
 MS-64, \$9,500.



As I finish my dreaming and wake up to reality – I am not, nor will I ever be a millionaire. There are no rich aunts left in the family.

I now leave you to ponder these thoughts.

		Lincoln Cent		
Bronze			Zinc Coated Steel	
1943	\$1,700,000		1944	\$350,000
1943-D	840,000		1944-D	85,000
1943-S	1,100,000		1944-S	500,000

(Author’s Note): Dollar values were taken from a current auction house records.

Happy error hunting - until next time!  
**To err is human – to collect them is so much fun!**



# Classic Commemorative Half Dollars

By  
*Matthew Jackson, YN*

When you think about coin collecting, what is the first series that comes to mind? There are so many to choose from. It is impossible to collect everything. My personal favorite series to collect is the classic commemorative half dollar series.

I love history (particularly American history), and the classic commemorative half dollars commemorate some of the most important events in United States history. My love for commemorative half dollars started when I was at a coin shop in Illinois and I came across a 1893 Columbian Exposition Commemorative Half Dollar for around \$10.00. At the time, I thought it was really cool to be able to own a silver coin from the 1800s for around \$10.00. That coin will always hold a special place in my heart as the coin that got it started for me.

The next one I was able to pick up was the Booker T. Washington Commemorative Half Dollar. I picked it up because at the time I found it I was studying Booker T. Washington for school. Since then, my classic commemorative half dollar collection has grown a lot. Currently, my five favorites I own are the 1918 Lincoln—Illinois, 1922 Grant, 1926 Oregon Trail, 1935/1934 Daniel Boone, and 1936 Texas commemorative half dollars. They are all nice graded examples. I am extremely blessed to have been able to add some of the better commemoratives like these to my collection. When I think about coin collecting, classic commemorative half dollars are the first series that comes to my mind.



## New Challenges

Since 1999 the U.S. Mint has dropped the idea of a fixed design for the quarter, where the only thing different between this and last year's version was the date. It started offering a series of programs where the design was based on a common theme that consisted of five different designs each year grouped within a state designation.

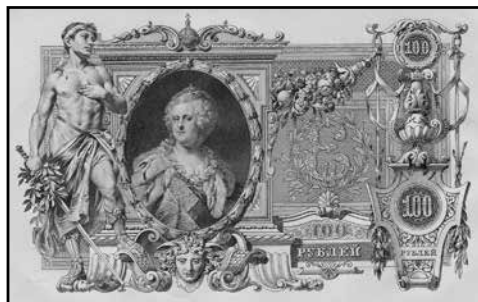
From 1999 until 2008 the designs honored the fifty states, appropriately called the State Quarter Program. In 2009 the District of Columbia and the five U.S. Territories were included in the program. In 2010 and continuing through 2021 the America the Beautiful Program highlighted the natural or historic significance sites within the states, territories and District of Columbia. A program featuring American women, the American Women Quarter Program, was launched in 2022 and scheduled through 2025. This program commemorate prominent American women and ratification of Nineteenth Amendment giving women the right to vote.

This latest program is the basis for this year's new challenge: assembling a collection based on one or more of the collector's favorite historical women. To illustrate this the author formed a collection around his favorite, Catherine the Great.



Catherine the Great, or Catherine II, was empress of Russia from 1762 to 1796. The author's fascination with her stems from a 2013 exhibit provided by the Wonders Exhibition sponsored by the City of Memphis, Tennessee. This exhibit featured items from the Hermitage Museum in Saint Petersburg, Russia. These items were selected from the Museum's warehouse of items that were not currently on display.

Items within this collection consists of numismatic related items as well anything the author feels are related to Catherine II. Remember, in collecting there are no rules. The collector can decide what to include and what not to.



The numismatic items consists of several large copper 5 Kopek coins of various dates and mints and a few assorted bank notes. For example, the 100 ruble note of 1910 with her picture on it.

Numismatic books featuring Catherine II's coinage include:

- *Russian Coins 1700-1917*, V.V. Uzdenikov, 1992 - somewhat difficult to read since it is entirely in Russian, which this author does not speak or read, but does have great illustrations
- *The Silver Coinage of Imperial Russia 1682 to 1917*, H.M Severin, 1965 – in English, but no illustrations
- *A Guidebook of Russian Coins 1725 to 1972*, 1974, Robert P. Harris – similar format to *A Guidebook of United States Coins* (the cover is even red).

In addition to numismatic related items, the author's collected:

- Books written about the life of Catherine II, the Hermitage Museum, or Winter Palace, which was Catherine II's home and where she displayed her fantastic art collection
- Books about Russia or the Romanov family, Russia's imperial family from 1613 until 1917
- Playing cards offered by the Wonder's exhibit
- Various video's about Catherine the Great including the HBO series starting Helen Mirren
- A framed picture of Catherine II which sits on the author's desk.

Two nice things about this collection is that it was assembled inexpensively and it is never complete. Coins can be added based on their availability and the author's budget. The books are acquired from flea markets and book dealers at coin shows. Of course, investment return is not a driving force here. The coins are common and the market for the books is limited. However, the author enjoys finding the items and isn't that what collecting is all about?



**Answers to Quiz**

1. a
2. c
3. a, b, c & f. The cities are: Boston, New York City, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Richmond, Atlanta, Chicago, St. Louis, Minneapolis, Kansas City, Dallas and San Francisco
4. c. December 23, 1913
5. b & c. In 1972 118 banks in western Missouri were transferred to Kansas City from St. Louis.
6. d
7. a
8. b. The cities are: Boston (A1), New York City (B2), Philadelphia (C3), Cleveland (D4), Richmond (E5), Atlanta (F6), Chicago (G7), St. Louis (H8), Minneapolis (I9), Kansas City (J10), Dallas (K11) and San Francisco (L12)
9. d
10. a

**Answer to Bonus Question:** a

## **St. Louis Numismatic Association**

Meets First Friday of the month:  
7:30 PM, doors open at 6:00 PM

Machinist Hall  
12365 St. Charles Rock Road  
St. Louis, MO 63044

Features: short business meeting, a 60 lot auction,  
beverages and bourse tables.

## **Dupo Coin Club**

Meets Third Monday of the month: 7:00 PM  
Sugar Loaf Township Community Building  
240 A. Fifth Str.  
Dupo, IL 62239

Directions: from I-255 take Exit 9 (Dupo), turn left on South  
Main Street, turn right on Admiral Trust Drive,  
go 1½ blocks, turn right into parking lot.

Next Show: January 5, 2025 American Legion Hall Post 365  
1022 Vandalia St. (Hwy 159) Collinsville, IL 62234  
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

## **Metro East Coin & Currency Club**

Meets Third Tuesday of the month: 7:00 PM.  
No meetings in June – July or August.

American Legion Hall Post 365  
1022 Vandalia Ave (Hwy 159)  
Collinsville, IL 62234

Directions: from I 55/70 take Exit 15 (Hwy 159), south which  
becomes Vandalia Avenue, go about 1.9 miles to 1022 Vandalia,  
turn left into parking lot

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Next Shows: Fall Show: Oct. 6, 2024

Spring Show: April 6, 2025

Fall Show: Oct. 5, 2025

All shows are:

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

at the American Legion Hall Post 365  
[www.metroeastcoincurrencyclub.com](http://www.metroeastcoincurrencyclub.com)

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## 2024 MNS Show Exhibitors and Exhibits

<u>Exhibitor:</u>	<u>Title:</u>
Joel Anderson	The Dahlonge and Charlotte Mints
Greg Darnstaedt	SS Central America
Jenkins	Ked ala o Hawaii (Money of Hawaii)
Joe Lindell	Theodore Roosevelt
Rob Kravitz	Tribute to Eric Newman
Dave Price	Mint Errors – By the Minting Process
Kathy Skelton	Women Warriors: Queen Maeve
Doug Tomey	Primitive Money
Chip Vaughn	Ancient Coins

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## FUTURE NUMISMATIC EVENTS

July 28, 2024	The Central Illinois Numismatic Association will hold its Coin Show in Springfield, Illinois at the Northfield Center, 3280 Northfield Drive.
July 31 - August 3, 2024	Blue Ridge Numismatic Association 65th Annual Convention in Dalton, Georgia at Dalton Convention Center, 2211 Tony Ingle Parkway.
August 6 -10, 2024	The American Numismatic Association (ANA) World's Fair of Money will be held in Rosemont (Chicago), Illinois at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center. (Consult the ANA website, <a href="http://www.money.org">www.money.org</a> , for details).
August 24-25, 2024	Columbia Coin, Currency & Collectibles Show, Columbia, MO
September 21, 2024	<b>The World Coin Club of Missouri' 2024 International Coin Fair at the St. Peter Parish Center, 301 First Capital Drive, Saint Charles, Missouri.</b>
October 6, 2024	<b>The Metro East Coin &amp; Currency Club will hold their Fall Show at the American Legion Hall Post 365, 1022 Vandalia Street (Route 159), Collinsville, Illinois. (<a href="http://www.metroeastcoincurrencyclub.com">www.metroeastcoincurrencyclub.com</a>)</b>
October 25 - 26, 2024	The Ozark's Coin Clubs Annual Fall Coin and Stamp Show will be held in Springfield, Missouri at the Relics Antique Mall Event Center.
October 31 - November 2, 2024	<b>Coin-X, Powered by Roundtable Trading 2022 at the Saint Charles Convention Center. The convention center is located at One Convention Center Plaza.</b>
January 5, 2025	<b>The Dupo Coin will hold their next Show at the American Legion Hall, 1022 Vandalia Street (Route 159), Collinsville, Illinois.</b>
January 9 – 12, 2025	The Florida United Numismatists' (FUN) 70th Annual FUN Show will be held in Orlando, Florida at the Orange County Convention Center.
February 6 – 9, 2025	<b>The St. Louis Numismatic Association will hold their 60th Annual Greater American Coin Fair – 3 Day Show in St. Louis at the Hilton St. Louis Airport Hotel. Please see <a href="http://www.stlouiscoinclub.com">www.stlouiscoinclub.com</a> for additional information.</b>

February 27 – March 1, 2025	The American Numismatic Association (ANA) National Money Show will be held in Atlanta, Georgia at the Cobb Galleria. (Consult the ANA website, <a href="http://www.money.org">www.money.org</a> , for details).
April 6, 2025	<b>The Metro East Coin &amp; Currency Club will hold their Fall Show at the American Legion Hall Post 365, 1022 Vandalia Street (Route 159), Collinsville, Illinois. (<a href="http://www.metroeastcoincurrencyclub.com">www.metroeastcoincurrencyclub.com</a>)</b>
April 23 – 26, 2025	The Central States Numismatic Society's Annual Convention will be held in Chicago/Schaumburg, Illinois at the Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center.
June ??, 2025	<b>The St Louis Numismatic Association will hold their 69th One Day Coin Show in St. Louis at the Machinists' Hall. Please see <a href="http://www.stlouiscoinclub.com">www.stlouiscoinclub.com</a> for additional information.</b>
July 10 – 12, 2025	The Florida United Numismatists' (FUN) 19th Annual Summer FUN Show will be held in Orlando, Florida at the Orange County Convention Center.
July 16 - 19, 2025	<b>The Missouri Numismatic Society will hold its 65th Annual Coin Show at the Saint Charles Convention Center. The convention center is located at One Convention Center Plaza.</b>
August 19 -23, 2025	The American Numismatic Association (ANA) World's Fair of Money will be held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma at the Oklahoma City Convention Center. (Consult the ANA website, <a href="http://www.money.org">www.money.org</a> , for details).
October 5, 2025	<b>The Metro East Coin &amp; Currency Club will hold their Fall Show at the American Legion Hall Post 365, 1022 Vandalia Street (Route 159), Collinsville, Illinois. (<a href="http://www.metroeastcoincurrencyclub.com">www.metroeastcoincurrencyclub.com</a>).</b>
January 8 – 11, 2026	The Florida United Numismatists' (FUN) 71st Annual FUN Show will be held in Orlando, Florida at the Orange County Convention Center.
July 9 – 11, 2026	The Florida United Numismatists' (FUN) 20th Annual Summer FUN Show will be held in Orlando, Florida at the Orange County Convention Center.
August 25 -29, 2026	The American Numismatic Association (ANA) World's Fair of Money will be held in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center. (Consult the ANA website, <a href="http://www.money.org">www.money.org</a> , for details).

*Shows held in the St. Louis area are highlighted.*

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## Ancient Coin Study Group

The St Louis Ancient Coin Study Group was established in 1979 and is one of the largest ancient coin clubs in the country. We boast of a membership of more than 300 members. The ACSG is jointly sponsored by the Missouri Numismatic Society and the World Coin Club of Missouri. Membership is dues free and our informal meetings are open to the public.

Ancient coins can be easily and often inexpensively purchased from coin show dealers, online marketplaces, and auction houses. The ready availability of inexpensive and good quality coins makes this an exciting time for the collector. ACSG members are happy to aid novice collectors in developing their collecting strategies.

The main component of each ACSG meeting is an educational ancient or medieval numismatic-themed presentation by a member or guest speaker. The “show and tell” sessions of our meetings offer the opportunity for both advanced and novice collectors to share their acquisitions with fellow ACSG members which include professional archaeologists and historians in an informal atmosphere. Members and guests may also bring in their most challenging “mystery coins” for identification and discussion.

The ACSG meets on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Meetings are held at Star Coins and More, 1 Garvey Pkwy Suite 100, St. Charles, MO 63303. Attendees are free to bring coins to buy/sell. Most meetings are also broadcast via Zoom for those who cannot attend in person.

Please check our “St Louis Ancient Coin Study Group” Facebook page to confirm meeting information. Recordings of many of our recent educational presentations can also be found there as well as at the Newman Numismatic Portal website. Contact our organizers Chip Vaughn, Darrell Angleton, and Jeremy Haag at <stl.acsg@gmail.com> to be added to our email distribution list

### 2024

July 18	Zander Paubel	The Coinage of Ancient Arabia: An Overlooked Niche of Numismatics
August 15	David Fanning	Early Numismatic Photography, 1849-1869
September 19	Dr. Michael Fuller	Coins and History of Antioch on the Orontes
October 17	Doug Tomey	Overview of the ANA Summer Seminar and Ancient Greek Coins Course
November 21	Gene McPherson	Italian Cast Bronze Coinage
December 19	Jeremy Haag (host)	Show and Tell Night

### 2025

January 16	Michael Markowitz	Coinage of Alexander the Great
February 20	Dr. William Bubelis and Jeremy Haag	Taking the Oath: An Example of Roman Gold from the Second Punic War in the John Max Wulff Collection
March 20	Bryce Hoener	Teutoburg Forest: History and Numismatic Evidence at the Kalkriese Battle Site
April 17	Ed Rataj	Countermarks from Ancient to Modern Times
May 15	Kathy Skelton	Queen Boudica
June 19	Chip Vaughn	Julia Domna: Matriarch of the Severan Dynasty

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# WORLD COIN CLUB OF MISSOURI

The World Coin Club (W.C.C.) meets the second Sunday of each month (except in May) in the meeting room of the Mt. Zion United Methodist Church. Meeting starts at 2:00, includes an educational program and bourse.

The church faces Craig School at 1485 Craig Road one mile north of Olive Blvd. Craig Road is also accessible from Page Avenue. Ample parking is available at the rear of the church.

The club address is W.C.C., P.O. Box 410652 St. Louis, MO 63141-0652.

## 2024

August 11	Tom Howlett	Certified Graded Coins – Good or Bad?
September 8	Larry Marsh	Confederate Money
October 13	Alisa & Morris Killian	TBD
November 10	Roger Schmidt	Junk Box Finds

## 2025

January 12	Ron Mueller	TBD (Token Related)
February 9	Jeff Stark	Numismatic Quiz
March 9	Dave Frank	W.W. I - Rationing
April 13	All Members	Coin and Book Garage Sale
May 18*		
June 8		
July 13		
August 10	Tom Howlett	TBD
September 14		
October 12	Roger Schmidt	Junk Box Finds – Part II
November 9	Jeff Starck	TBD

\* Third Sunday of the Month



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# MISSOURI NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

The Missouri Numismatic Society meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month, except in July, November and December, at 7:00 p.m. in the Creve Coeur American Legion Memorial Post 397. Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

The address is 934 E. Rue De La Banque, directly behind (north of) Bristol's Restaurant. It is easily accessible by exiting eastbound from I-270 onto Olive Blvd. Visitors should turn left (north) onto New Ballas Rd. The next left should be taken at the end of one short block at the stop sign. At the top of the hill, the Legion Building is visible on the right. Park at the rear of the hall.

Members' bourse precedes the business meeting. A program auction and bourse follow.

For additional information or a membership application, write to: M.N.S., P.O. Box 410652, St. Louis MO 63141-0652 or see our website [missourinumismaticssociety.org](http://missourinumismaticssociety.org).

## 2024

August 28	Joel Anderson	The Denver Mint
September 25	Chris Sutter	Coin Conservation, Part II
October 23		Show and Tell
November 20*	Dale Bunyard	What it Takes to Start a Coin Club

## 2025

January 22	Dave Frank	Numismatic Jeopardy
February 26	Dan Kemper	Historic Mints
March 26	Dave Price	Mint Errors – the Beautiful Coins
April 23	Carl and Nick	Auction
May 28	Kathy Skelton	Women Warriors - Mulan
June 25	Greg Darnstaedt	SS Central America Part II
July		No Meeting because of Annual Coin Show
August 27	Joel Anderson	The Dahlonga Mint
September 24	Nick Correnti	Collecting \$1 Federal Reserve Notes
October 22		Show and Tell
November 19*	Chris Sutter	Disney Dollars

\*\* *Third Wednesday because of Thanksgiving*

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# MISSOURI NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

Prior to the General Membership meeting a short presentation is provided that is intended for our Young Numismatists. These presentations are very informal discussions that start thirty minutes prior to the General Meeting, 6:30 p.m., in the same room as the General Meeting.

These presentations are called “Early Talks”.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

## 2024

August 28	Chris Sutter	Beginners Guide to Buffalo Nickels
September 25	Doug Tomey	Overview of Roman Campgate Coinage
October 23		No Talk Show and Tell
November 20*		TBD

## 2025

January 22		TBD
February 26		TBD
March 26		TBD
April 23		No Presentation because of Auction
May 28	Dave Price	How Mint Errors are Made!!
June 25		TBD
July		No Meeting because of Annual Coin Show
August 27	Chris Sutter	TBD
September 24		TBD
October 22		TBD
November 19*		TBD

**The  
MISSOURI NUMISMATIC  
SOCIETY**

**invites you to attend our  
65th Annual Coin Show  
July 16th - 19th, 2025**

**The  
MISSOURI NUMISMATIC SOCIETY  
invites you to attend the  
NEXT REGULAR MEETING**

**which will be held  
on the fourth Wednesday  
of the month at 7:00 p.m.  
Doors Open at 6:00 p.m.**

**Creve Coeur American Legion  
Memorial Post 397  
934 E. Rue De La Banque  
directly behind (north of) Bristol's Restaurant**

## 2024 Wooden Dollar

This year's wooden dollar celebrates the 150th Anniversary of the Eads Bridge (1874 – 2024) and the 64th Annual Coin Show.



**Now Accepting Consignments**  
*for our Collectors' Auction - 2024*  
*and our Jewelry and Heirlooms Sale*

**Thursday, August 29, 2024 Deadline**

*We invite your participation in our  
autumn auction events as a consignor.  
Visit us at the lot viewing section of the  
bourse to discuss our favorable terms.*

**SCOTSMAN AUCTION CO.**  
11005 Olive Boulevard - St. Louis, MO 63141 - [scoins.com](http://scoins.com)